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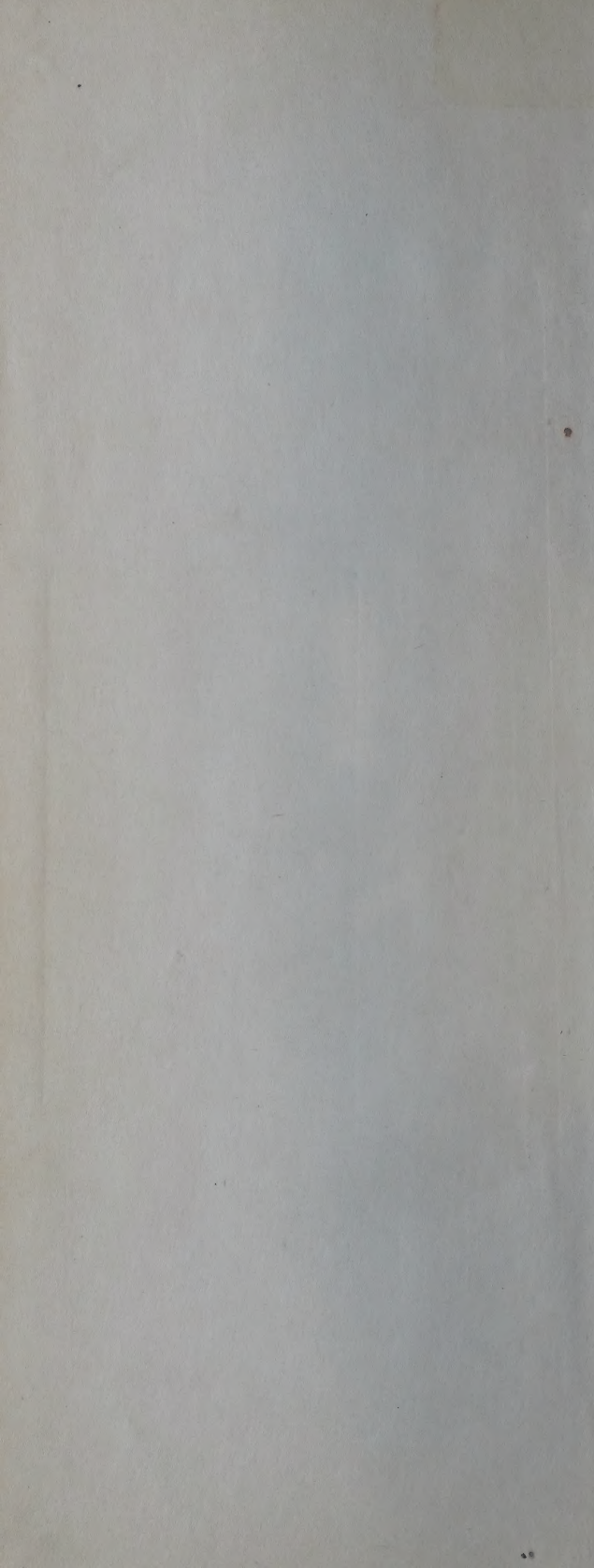
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Annual Report

of the

Committee of Fifteen

for the year ending

April 30, 1913

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Committee of Fifteen

FOR THE YEAR ENDING
APRIL 30, 1913

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To the Committee of Fifteen:—

The year 1912 was one of unusual activity and marked success in the fight against organized vice in the City of Chicago, and in all of the important phases of the combat, The Committee of Fifteen played a very important part.

At the beginning of the year, the segregated district on the South Side, from 18th Street to 22nd Street, and from Armour Avenue to State Street, was being conducted in the most flagrant manner, with upwards of seventy-five open houses of prostitution, containing more than twelve hundred women. These houses were very largely controlled by men, in violation of police regulations, and liquor was being sold in nearly all of them without regard to the rules prohibiting such sale. A "Booking System" was in vogue, by means of which the police maintained a superficial control of the inmates, but which, in reality, amounted to nothing more than giving the sanction of the public authorities to the presence of these women in the district.

The work of the Committee of Fifteen had always been confined primarily to the prosecution of the men and women who procured young girls to enter an immoral life, and no direct effort had been made to prosecute the keepers of houses in the segregated district. Early in the month of June it became evi-

dent from the reports of our investigators that many of the keepers were harboring girls under age and that the officers who had charge of the "Booking System" failed to discriminate between hardened prostitutes and the girls under age who were being sold into the houses.

The active campaign against the keepers began the first week in August, when, within a period of a few days, five girls, all under the age of eighteen, all of whom had homes in Chicago, and all of whom were being sought by their parents, were found in the houses of prostitution on the South Side. Warrants were sworn out for the arrest of seven keepers and all of them became fugitives from justice, but the houses continued open and the police captain of the district said that he was powerless to close them, and declined even to report the situation to the chief or to the mayor.

On August 23rd, the Committee of Fifteen wrote to the mayor, a full explanation of the situation and asked him to appoint a time when a representative of the Committee might interview him, with the idea of getting definite action. Without waiting for any further proof, and without any personal interview, Mayor Harrison, on August 24th, issued an order to the Chief of Police to close the five houses and revoked the saloon license for the notorious Imperial Cafe, at 2133-35 Armour Avenue.

The Chicago Tribune, in commenting upon the action of the mayor, said that it was the

severest blow that had been dealt to the red light district since it was established. The Chicago Record-Herald said that the vice ring, consisting of the "Big Eight" (naming them,) had been shattered. Mayor Harrison's attitude on the situation is evidenced by his letter of that date:

"Chicago, August 23, 1912.

Mr. Carl A. Waldron,
1017 Ft. Dearborn Bldg.,
Chicago.

Dear Sir:

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of August 22nd, reporting cases investigated by the Committee of Fifteen. I have revoked the saloon license of Harry J. Cusick; I have not yet located a license in name of Frank Lewis. I have given instructions to the Chief of Police to close, and to keep closed, until further notice from my office, the houses at 2033 Armour Ave., 2014 Armour Ave., 2117 Dearborn St., 2127 Dearborn St. and 32 W. 20th St.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) Carter H. Harrison, Mayor."

The following week the fugitives began to return to the City and surrendered themselves to the officers. "Dago" Frank Lewis and Harry Cusick, who conducted the Imperial Cafe were the first to be brought into court, and while their preliminary hearings were still pending, all of the evidence in the seven cases was presented to the September Grand Jury by witnesses produced by the Committee of Fifteen.

The indictments were promptly returned and the Grand Jury announced that it was prepared to make a general investigation of vice conditions in Cook County. For three days evidence was presented involving the different sections of the City of Chicago and West Hammond.

As a result of the revelations thus made, John E. W. Wayman, State's Attorney, announced that he would exercise the power vested in him by law, and close every house of prostitution in Cook County and have warrants issued for the keepers, inmates and the owners of the property. This plan of action was carried out as to the red light district. Many of the owners and proprietors were either fined in court or given written notice that such violation of the Statutes would no longer be tolerated.

At the time Mr. Wayman began his crusade, Mayor Harrison appointed a committee of nine aldermen to investigate vice conditions and report to the Council the advisability of carrying out the recommendations of the Vice Commission appointed by Mayor Busse. That commission had announced that it was unalterably opposed to segregation, and that constant repression should be the immediate object, and complete suppression of commercialized vice should be the ultimate aim.

The aldermanic committee held five meetings, all of which were largely attended, and at all of which the issues involved were discussed. Men and women recognized as

social workers were of one opinion, namely, in perfect harmony with the report of the Vice Commission. Opposed to these forces, arguments and some evidence were presented to the effect that business interests demanded the re-establishment of the red light district. Some physicians were brought in to testify that, in their opinion, the growth and spread of venereal diseases would be reduced to a minimum by having a district in which the vicious element of the City was segregated.

Letters from the Chiefs of Police of some twenty cities were produced, in which they expressed the opinion that a policy of segregation was the most efficient way of handling the vice conditions. A printed report of some twenty pages, entitled, "Segregation versus Scatteration," was submitted to the aldermanic committee as a set of counter recommendations to the report of the Vice Commission.

The aldermanic committee was therefore confronted with the proposition of accepting either the recommendations of the Vice Commission or the suggestions of these other interested parties who would not reveal what their real connection was with the vice interests.

After several months of deliberation and careful consideration of the arguments and evidence presented to them, the committee of aldermen, on May 5th, 1913, reported to the Council that their investigation had led them to substantially the same conclusions

as recommended by the Vice Commission, and the policy of the administration should be one of constant repression, with absolute suppression as the ultimate aim. Members of the aldermanic committee admitted that in the beginning of their investigation, a majority of them were in favor of a policy of segregation. The fact that they finally brought in a unanimous report against a policy of segregation is the strongest commentary upon the force of the arguments which were presented to them. This synopsis is only an outline of the events which have been influencing public opinion during the last year, and the scope of this report permits only the briefest mention of some of the permanent reforms which have resulted from this unusual activity.

Chief among these is the establishment of a branch of the Municipal Court of Chicago, to be known as the Morals Court, in which all cases involving commercialized vice, and related crimes are to be tried, and where the victims of vicious conditions are to be studied and dealt with by experts whose aim is to discover the causes and recommend the cure in addition to punishing persons who are found guilty of crime.

The police force has been re-organized with a civilian as the second deputy, who has charge of that division of the police force specially detailed to the investigation of vice conditions throughout the City. This re-organization of the police force arose out of the investigation made by the Civil Service Bureau, and promises to be a permanent

reform for the more vigilant and efficient enforcement of the City Ordinances.

In keeping with this spirit of progress and in order to cope more efficiently with the vice conditions as they still exist, the Committee of Fifteen, at a special meeting, on the 11th of March, determined to increase its membership to fifty, and raise a budget which would enable them to secure the services of able counsel and an experienced man to take charge of the investigation, and outline the general policy of the committee.

To outline the work and to superintend the activities of the investigators, the Committee considers itself to be extremely fortunate in securing the services of Samuel P. Thrasher of Hartford, Connecticut, who, for eleven years, was Secretary and General Manager of the Law and Order League of Connecticut, and who is the author of the State Police Law of that State, which, for the past eight years, has been in successful operation there. He will have charge of its forces, and communications concerning conditions should be sent to him, at Room No. 807 Otis Building, where office accommodations have been secured.

The Committee fully appreciates the value of the assistance and co-operation rendered during the past by the following organizations:

Juvenile Protective Association

Bureau of Personal Service

United Charities

Chicago Law and Order League
Y. W. C. A.
Catholic Women's League
Travelers Aid
American Vigilance Association
Northwestern University Settlement
Chicago Commons
Hull House
State Employment Bureau
B'nai B'rith

Officers Bowler, Kinder and Bell, specially detailed by the Chief of Police to the office of the Committee of Fifteen, have done excellent work in their personal efforts to investigate cases and procure witnesses in the cases that have come under their immediate supervision and have rendered valuable service in securing for the committee the co-operation of the Captains and other officers in the different precincts of the City where vice conditions have to be dealt with. The committee is fully conscious of the attitude of the police officials toward the panders and traffickers in women, and it believes from its past experience with police officials that there is an honest effort being made by them to rid the City of this class of criminals. It is the hope of this committee that closer relations of confidence and service may be established between its office and the police department, with the end in view of rendering more efficient service to the public.

The Committee believes that the outlook for future service was never brighter. A powerful public sentiment has been aroused,

not only here, but throughout the nation. Public officials have been compelled to enforce laws, which, for years, were dead letters upon the Statute books. Investigations are being conducted by official bodies to discover the underlying causes of vice and their recommendations are sure to be crystallized into permanent reforms. Much remains, however, to be accomplished, and the committee hopes to be the efficient medium through which the general public may have an active and effective part in accomplishing its ultimate aim, namely, the stamping out of commercialized vice.

(Signed) Carl A. Waldron.

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To the Citizens of Chicago:

At the close of the first year of its enlarged work, The Committee of Fifteen is glad to give an account of its stewardship to the many friends and contributors, who have supported the organization, during the year ending May 1, 1914.

Previous to the appointment of the Chicago Vice Commission, a small group of private citizens were quietly devoting resources and energy to the war on commercialized vice. Utilizing the conscience stirred by the Commission's report, they organized, and incorporated in 1911, The Committee of Fifteen. Under its present charter, the purpose of the organization is: "To aid the public authorities in the enforcement of the laws against pandering and to take measures calculated to prevent traffic in women." In the Spring of 1913, the corporation enlarged its board of directors to include fifty men and women who are specially interested in the boys and girls of our city. At that time also, its work was placed upon a new and more extensive basis by the appointment of an experienced Superintendent.

The inclosed statement is largely made up from the annual report submitted by our Superintendent, Mr. Samuel P. Thrasher.

We trust that a perusal of this record will assure the continued support of all who have been our friends hitherto, and in addition will widen the circle and win the confidence of all public spirited citizens.

Respectfully submitted,

Henry P. Crowell,

Vice-President.

Mr. President and Directors:

In submitting my first annual report I wish to call attention to two significant facts. First, The Committee of Fifteen has dealt such a crippling blow to prostitution as a business enterprise that the vice interests have come to fear the Committee more than they do any other force in Chicago. Second, The public conscience has been aroused. In the report of the Vice Commission I find these words: "We believe Chicago has a public conscience which, when aroused, cannot be easily stilled." It is evident that that conscience has been stirred as never before.

These two facts have made it possible to accomplish results during the last year which are little less than epoch making. The Committee has directed its efforts chiefly to the work of destroying market places for traffic in women. We have a list of five hundred eighteen (518) places where immorality was carried on more or less openly one year ago, or since, which are now closed or against which we can obtain no evidence. This list includes seventy-three (73) disorderly saloons and four hundred forty-five (445) houses of ill-fame or assignation.

In addition to the places which can be checked off, we have much evidence to prove that many owners have directly, or through the police, ejected many tenants. No reliable statistics are obtainable on this point, but we have reason to believe that hundreds of occupants of immoral houses have been dislodged by owners or agents, without our knowledge.

The chief weapon used in this warfare has been publicity. The publishing of the names of the owners of real estate, in connection with the keepers of immoral resorts has had a four-fold effect: it has directly caused the dislodgment of hundreds of keepers; it has made it much harder for keepers of immoral resorts to find safe abiding places; it has stim-

ulated the administration and the Police Department to greater activity, and has thrown the vice interests of Chicago into a panic.

I am well aware of the statements which are industriously circulated to the effect that the breaking up of the vice district has driven prostitutes into respectable neighborhoods. I meet that utterance by saying that it is not true to any such extent as is generally believed. That many professional prostitutes have taken up their abode in residential districts, is true, but it is also true that the district which they left is largely residential, and the pity of it is that residents of that district are poor and unable to protect themselves against an entrenched system of vice which has been more or less officially established and maintained.

The more "well-to-do" and "respectable" a neighborhood is, the better equipped it is to prevent inroads of vice.

It must be apparent that no such villainous system of prostitution can be practiced in any residential district as was in vogue in the red light district, where from ten to one hundred women were plying their horrible trade under one roof.

The volume of the business has been reduced materially, even if every prostitute has moved from the red light district to some other part of the city, which is far from the truth. A year ago our investigators could gain easy access to from twenty to thirty places in a single night; now it is extremely difficult for them to gain admittance to any place without strategy of some sort. Recently two competent investigators visited thirty suspected places in one night without being able to gain admittance to a single one.

Our records show that ninety-four (94) persons have been arrested for pandering and related crimes. Forty-nine persons have been convicted and punished, by fine or by both fine

and imprisonment. The total amount of fines and costs imposed upon thirty-eight (38) persons has been \$11,182.00. The total term of imprisonment of twenty-nine (29) persons has been twenty-three (23) years. Two thousand (\$2,000.00) dollars in bonds have been forfeited, making a total of \$13,182.00, which have been imposed as money penalties. Thirty-two girls have been restored to their parents or sent to correctional institutions.

VICE DISTRICT

It is admitted by all who are in a position to know the facts that the old vice district on the south side is practically closed. It would be absurd to say that vice has been obliterated, but some of the most notorious resorts are included in the more than 450 houses of ill-fame, assignation and disorderly saloons which have been put out of business.

The plan to make the attack upon that district and keep at it until we had made an impression was made with deliberation, believing that if we could successfully dislodge the keepers of the most vicious resorts in the city, we could pursue our work with greater hope of ultimate success.

In those four hundred (400) houses of ill-fame there were, according to conservative estimates, 2,000 professional prostitutes. That would make an average of five per house. We know of houses which contained forty or fifty, and we know of none that did not have two, hence we believe we are well within bounds when we say there were two thousand (2,000) prostitutes plying their trade in these houses. A conservative estimate as to the gross income would be \$10 per day per woman, which would mean \$20,000 daily, or the snug sum of \$7,300,000 in a single year. I have no hesitancy in saying that at least 80% of this amount was paid to about 1,500

keepers, runners, pimps and panders, the male exploiters of these women. No wonder that the vice interests are in a panic. Several millions of dollars have been taken away from them, largely through the efforts of this Committee.

It would be idle to say that the Committee has directly closed all these places. To Chief. Gleason, Second Deputy Funkhouser, Morals Inspector Dannenberg, and Lieut. Grady can be given much credit for the direct attack upon these immoral institutions. How much would have been done but for the activities of the Committee of Fifteen, is of course unknown.

One of the most persistent rumors set afloat by the vice interests is that the assaults upon decent women have increased largely since the attack was made upon the red light district. The facts are interesting. The attack was made by States Attorney Wayman, in the late Fall of 1912. The official reports show that during the year of 1912, there were 347 cases of rape or assault with intent to rape, and the year following, 1913, there were 303, a decrease of nearly 13%, while there was an increase in population of 70,000. Reports for longer periods also show a decrease.

It is variously estimated that from one to three thousand professional prostitutes have left the city during the last year. I think one thousand is a very conservative estimate and that three thousand is too high.

One reliable police official informs me, that, in his judgment, sixty per cent of the professional prostitutes throughout the entire city have gone out of business. I think this estimate is too high, but that tremendous inroads have been made in the vice situation in Chicago, no sane person can deny.

Yet we must not deceive ourselves. The vice king is not dethroned. His territory has been invaded, and he has been tremendously

hampered, but he is yet a formidable adversary in Chicago, and it is only by pushing the warfare with relentless determination that the battle for decency may be won.

If this work is pursued with persistent determination and common sense along its appropriate strategic lines, we may hold what we have gained and make still further inroads into the vice situation. There is much to be done.

The Legislative Committee has an important task before it in preparing special amendments to the laws and recommending new legislation which may enable the Committee to continue its work with hope of ultimate success.

It is my pleasurable duty to refer to the commendable spirit of co-operation which has been shown by the social service organizations of Chicago, and I make special mention of the Juvenile Protective Association, the Coulter House, the Chicago Law and Order League, the Hyde Park Protective Association and the United Charities.

Respectfully submitted,

S. P. Thrasher,

Superintendent.

During the latter part of the year, additional efforts were made along other lines. These are briefly summarized in extracts from the report of Mr. George J. Anderson, Secretary in charge of the organization work:

Mr. President and Directors:

To accomplish all its work, The Committee of Fifteen recognizes the necessity of an aroused and active public opinion. That an atmosphere of unrelenting hostility to this sinister social evil may be created, the Committee recently began the organization of some local councils.

There are now twelve of these bodies fully organized, and two others later to complete

their organization with a total membership of 1,100. They are distributed as follows: seven on the South Side, four on the West Side, and three on the North Side. They vary in enrollment from 50 members to 125. It is to be regretted that the summary of the membership must be rendered while a number of the newer councils are in the midst of membership campaigns. On the basis of the estimates furnished me by their officers, the enrollment will be more than doubled in some of the councils.

That they are appealing to their respective constituencies we have reason to know from their early steps; the plans for outreaching after new members, for public meetings, for educational campaigns, for co-operating with the police, for aiding unfortunate girls, and the rest. We may be even more assured of their appeal by the calibre of the citizens who have consented to serve on their directorates, representing, as they do, the best in the local business, professional and social life. In each community we have sought to enlist the leaders and we have succeeded beyond expectation. In this task, of course, the substantial representation of the parent body has been our strongest ally.

Each council is governed by a board of nine directors. A reading of their names reveals university professors, clergy, rabbis, the dean of a great technical school, the Superintendent of a leading hospital, physicians, lawyers, leaders of Women's Clubs and Suffrage leagues, heads of big business concerns,—a list of people convincing in its weight of position, brain and moral strength.

George J. Anderson.

AN APPEAL TO THE FATHERS AND MOTHERS OF CHICAGO.

The fifteen to twenty thousand professional prostitutes in Chicago came from so many homes somewhere in this wide world. How many thousands of fathers and mothers are now praying and hoping that their daughters who went out of their lives, perhaps years ago, perhaps only months ago, perhaps only a few days ago, may yet return, God only knows.

It is conservatively estimated that five thousand recruits from among the daughters of fathers and mothers must be drawn into this net every year. Shall your daughter be among them? It takes many thousands of young men and boys, to make this horrible business in Chicago profitable. Are your sons among them? Thousands of homes in Chicago are overshadowed by this pestilential cloud called vice. Is your home in the shadow?

The Committee of Fifteen was chiefly responsible during the last year for closing the doors of more than four hundred resorts where the bodies and souls of women were sold for money and where thousands of boys were started on the road to ruin. Cannot you lend a hand to deal a more crippling blow to the thousands of infamous dens that still remain?

The Committee of Fifteen was also instrumental in restoring thirty-two girls to their parents or in having committed to correctional institutions. If any of them had been your girls, would you have appreciated it to the extent of furnishing means to pursue the fight? There is no middle ground. Indifference and apathy present the chief obstacles to a successful war against vice.

The burden of expense last year was borne by a few hundred men and women. We should have several thousand fathers and mothers enlisted in this warfare. Will you not be among them, for the sake of your sons, your daughters, your homes and your city? We want you more than we want your money. We shall have you if we have your money. Will you not give from one dollar to a hundred to aid in this fight for you and yours?

All checks should be made payable to David R. Forgan, Treasurer, and you may send your gift to any member of the Committee or to the Central office, and it will receive prompt acknowledgment.

Address all communications concerning this work to Mr. Samuel P. Thrasher, Superintendent, 807 Otis Building, Chicago, Illinois.

Pledge Card

I hereby agree to give to THE COMMITTEE OF FIF-

TEEN _____ Dollars,
to be used for current expenses in its work against Commer-
cialized Vice in Chicago during the fiscal year, ending April
30, 1915.

I further agree to pay this pledge during the month of

_____, 191_____

Signed _____

Address _____

Date _____ 191_____

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Signed _____

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for the year ending
April 30, 1915

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Committee of Fifteen

FOR THE YEAR ENDING

APRIL 30, 1915

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FOR THE YEAR ENDING

APRIL 30, 1916

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*To the Directors, Members and Friends of the
Committee of Fifteen:*

The achievements of our organization during the past year, and its aims for the future, will be detailed by our Superintendent in this published report, but a brief foreword from your President may be fitting.

The conscience of Chicago was awakened by work done under the direction of a small group of private citizens. It was startled into energetic action by the report of the Vice Commission—a report of marvelous insight and revelation. At once the small group of citizens took advantage of the more alert public conscience and organized and incorporated in 1911 the Committee of Fifteen, whose purpose is, “To aid the public authorities in the enforcement of laws against pandering and to take measures calculated to prevent traffic in women.”

Larger interest demanded a larger Board, and in 1913 the Committee of Fifteen increased its Directorate to fifty, though still retaining its corporate name. Numbered among its members are some of the most able and energetic citizens of Chicago. The Committee, therefore, is not of mushroom growth, being rather a product of evolution, and is based upon principle and conscience.

The generous support granted heretofore by many citizens of Chicago is again bespoken as the warfare against commercialized vice moves onward toward its goal, **ULTIMATE SUPPRESSION.**

Respectfully submitted,

Henry P. Crowell,

President.

Mr. President, Directors, and Members of the Committee of Fifteen:

In beginning my report of last year, I said, "The Committee of Fifteen has dealt such a crippling blow to prostitution as a business enterprise that the vice interests have come to fear the Committee more than they do any other force in Chicago." That was true then; it is true now. However, within the last few days there have been signs that the new Chief of Police is throwing consternation into the camp of the enemy.

Our efforts have been mainly directed toward the work of destroying market places for traffic in women. It is to be regretted that there is no way of obtaining the exact facts respecting the number of houses of prostitution which have been closed through the direct and indirect efforts of this Committee.

PUBLICITY.

Our method of publishing the names of the owners of record of property used for immoral purposes has had tremendous effect. Many hundreds of houses in this great city have been purged of immoral women by owners or agents who had been indifferent regarding the use of their property or who had been content to receive revenue from such a source as long as there was no danger of having their names publicly linked with the keepers of these resorts.

I have reported to our Committee two hundred one places where immorality was practiced and allowed, and we have published in the newspapers one hundred nine places in connection with the names of the owners of the property involved.

OLD RED LIGHT DISTRICT GONE.

As is known to our Directors, two years ago we deliberately directed all the forces at our command against the worst plague-spot in the city, the red light district on the South Side,

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believing that if we could dislodge the keepers of the most notorious resorts in Chicago we might have a fair chance of keeping them on the move until they would finally give up in despair.

Last year we reported five hundred eighteen places from which immoral women had been dislodged. These places were formerly used more or less openly for immoral purposes. During the year just closed there has been such a tremendous overthrow of resorts of that kind that I have thought it best not to take the time of our small force to check off all the places now standing idle or occupied for some other purpose. I did, however, direct our agents to make a thorough canvass of one section of the city east of Clark Street and between Sixteenth and Twenty-sixth Streets, on the west side of which was the old segregated or red light district, in order to ascertain how many vacant tenements or apartments could be found. Their report showed eleven hundred seventy-eight vacant places within that small area which were for the most part used for immoral purposes prior to the beginning of our campaign in May, 1913. This, in my judgment, is a very conservative statement, as I know of one big building where there are thirty-two vacant tenements and our agents reported only four. Of course, they reported only those where outward signs showed vacant apartments, whereas vacancies among the inside apartments were not ascertained.

CO-OPERATION OF OWNERS AND AGENTS.

One of the most satisfactory results has been the winning over of many real estate owners and agents to a position of active co-operation in our work of eliminating vicious resorts. Real estate men are acknowledging that it is neither good morals nor good business to permit property under their control to be used for immoral purposes, and we are glad to count among our most helpful sup-

porters some influential corporations and individuals who are large handlers of real estate. It was with a great deal of satisfaction that we secured from the Cook County Real Estate Board, the Chicago Real Estate Board, and the Apartment Buildings Association, individually and collectively, an endorsement of the Injunction and Abatement Bill, which is still pending before the Legislature and will in my judgment become law.

At a recent meeting of the Chicago Real Estate Board there was recommended for adoption a "Code of Ethics." Paragraph Nine of that code reads:

"The agent should guard the reputation of both the client and his property by declining under any and all circumstances to rent premises for immoral purposes. Should an owner wish him to do so, it is his plain duty to decline, even though it result in the property being withdrawn from his charge."

Such a declaration from such a body is significant in view of the laxity of owners and agents in this regard previous to Chicago's moral awakening.

Hardly a week passes that real estate men do not come to the office, or phone to us, regarding their property. Their inquiries are usually with regard to two things, one as to whether we have any evidence concerning property in which they are interested, and the other as to whether we know anything about prospective tenants. As to the first, of course, we cannot give information except to those who have responded promptly when listed or notified regarding the immoral use of their property. Concerning the latter inquiry as to tenants, we have been able to report unfavorably on several applicants. The increasing number of these inquiries is gratifying.

PANDERING AND RELATED CRIMES.

It has been extremely difficult to obtain evidence against panders. Formerly, these vile

creatures would so abuse the women under their control that the women could be induced to give evidence against them, but during our fiscal year of 1913-1914 we made it cost them more than thirteen thousand dollars and an imprisonment of twenty-nine persons aggregating a total of twenty-three years. That has had a decidedly deterrent effect and there have been fewer beatings and less ill usage of the girls than formerly; consequently, a smaller number are willing to give evidence against panders. During the fiscal year of 1914-1915, our records show that eighteen persons have been arrested for pandering and related crimes; that sixteen persons have been convicted and punished by fine, or by both fine and imprisonment. The total amount of fines and costs in cases in which our Committee has been interested has been four thousand eight hundred ten dollars, and the total term of imprisonment of ten persons has been eleven years. Six persons have been discharged and two cases are pending. Twelve girls have been restored to their parents or committed to correctional institutions.

INDIVIDUAL CASES.

I could spend hours in citing individual cases, many of them of intense interest, but it has been my purpose in this report to take you along the main battle line and not to the hospitals. I will, however, cite briefly two typical cases.

A father came to the office and told a pitiful story of the disappearance of his daughter, seventeen years old, and gave a description of the man who he believed had enticed her away. In a few days, the couple were located in San Francisco. Our special officer Kinder went there with the necessary papers, and brought the couple back. The man was charged with abduction. Subsequently, it was learned that he had a wife and child in New York state. The charge was changed to one of bigamy. He was convicted and sentenced

to pay a fine of one thousand dollars and spend from one to five years in the penitentiary.

A few months ago, a young German girl came here alone from Cleveland, seeking employment. She fell into the hands of an Italian, named Panerallo, who induced her to consent to marry him. He obtained a license, which caused her to believe they were married. He hired a room, and subsequently insisted that she should live a life of prostitution for his benefit. He was arrested, convicted and sentenced to pay a fine of one thousand dollars, and sent to the house of correction for one year. We took the girl, who was in a bad physical condition, to the County Hospital, where she is now receiving proper care.

REMOVAL OF TELEPHONES A CRIPPLING BLOW.

More than a year ago I called the attention of our Directors to the moral and legal responsibility of the Telephone Company in the matter of supplying telephone service to houses of prostitution. Our counsel were requested to prepare a brief on the subject. In their conclusion, counsel said:

"Where the Telephone Company has satisfactory evidence that the statutes are being violated in premises where it has equipment installed, it may refuse further to furnish service and remove its equipment therefrom if it sees fit to do so. It would not be liable to damages for such action, providing, of course, it could establish the character of the place as being one where illegal practices were being carried on, as described in the statute. It could not be compelled by mandamus to reinstall the equipment, nor could it be enjoined from refusing to furnish the service. There is no doubt that the telephone service furnished to houses of ill repute is of tremendous assistance in the carrying forward of the illicit business denounced by the statute. For the Telephone Company to knowingly permit its facilities to be used for such purpose is inexcusable in law or morals."

Armed with that brief, we sought and obtained a conference with the officials of the Telephone Company, who agreed to remove telephones upon the request of the Chief of Police. A Committee consisting of President Crowell, Vice-President Rosenwald, A. Stamford White, and your Superintendent, was appointed to wait upon the Chief and ascertain his attitude. He very willingly agreed to make reports to the Telephone Company. He did so, and many telephones have been removed. One person, Violet Phipps, a notorious levee character, recently sued the Telephone Company in mandamus proceedings to compel that corporation to install a telephone. They had refused to do so on the ground that she had been the keeper of a house of prostitution. It is interesting to note that there was no evidence that the house in question was used or had been used for prostitution, but her previous character, as keeper of three or four immoral resorts, was used as reason for refusing to install a telephone. The Court sustained the respondent and dismissed the writ. Judge Goodwin stated orally, although not in his written decision, that the Company could not grant such a request without becoming a party to the violation of law. From many sources we have heard of the effect of this crippling blow. Keepers usually admit that they cannot do a profitable business without a telephone, and the more unprofitable this business becomes the better it is for public morals.

FREIBERG'S ONLY AN UNPLEASANT MEMORY.

One of the outstanding incidents during the last year was the revocation of the license of Freiberg's dance hall and the dismissal of the writ of mandamus by Judge McGoorty. This dance hall had not only become notorious in Chicago, but it had gained a national and international reputation. During the trial a desperate effort was made to convince the Court that the place was thoroughly respectable and

patronized by Chicago's most worthy citizens. A petition for the revocation of the license, signed by nearly twenty thousand citizens, was obtained through the efforts of Miss Vittum, a member of our Committee, and presented to Mayor Harrison. Our Committee furnished evidence of the real character of the proprietor and his patrons. It is a source of satisfaction to us that the quiet of the graveyard now prevails where a year ago unseemly orgies disturbed the night.

DOWN BUT NOT OUT.

It would be folly to assume that commercialized vice has been banished from Chicago. The pimp and the pander are still here, defying law and authority, and will continue to be here as long as that vile trade is profitable, which will be until law and authority make it unprofitable. The male exploiters of women and certain handlers of real estate in that section of the city near Thirty-first Street seem to have an idea that they can locate another red light district there. Some, if not all, of them will find themselves mistaken before many moons. No, vice is still with us, but prostitution as a business enterprise has received such a terrific blow that all the efforts of the vice kings to revive this wretched traffic will prove futile if decent citizenship maintains its present attitude. I cannot too warmly commend the splendid work of Ex-Chief Gleason and Second Deputy Funkhouser. But for their activities, vice would still have a strangle hold upon Chicago. These officials have done great service for this city, but we believe that they only began a warfare which will be continued under the new Administration with such relentless energy that exploiters of women will consider Hades preferable to Chicago.

THE SCATTERATION BUGABOO.

We are, of course, hearing much about the scattering of prostitutes into the residential sections. I have heard about it ever since I

have been in Chicago. All the advocates of segregation fall back upon this bugaboo in defense of their own pet theory. However, actual facts cannot be produced to demonstrate that this scattering has produced conditions at all comparable with the evils which resulted from the "wide open" town. That there has been some such scattering is true, and personally I am glad of it—the more well-to-do and respectable a neighborhood is, the better equipped it is to prevent the inroads of vice. At one of our meetings recently, Jenkin Lloyd Jones said:

"If there is one thing more pernicious than segregated vice, it is segregated virtue. The boulevards are responsible for the alleys."

Mayor Harrison, in his Annual Message, knew whereof he spoke when he said:

"The breaking up of the segregated district in Chicago has not spread the social evil into the residential districts as was feared would be the result."

ORGANIZATION OF COUNCILS.

I regret that we have not been able to have at least one organizer constantly in the field to keep alert and active the Councils which we formed a year ago, and to continue the work of organizing new Councils. I am a strong believer in the organization of these Councils to co-operate with and assist our Committee in its work of suppressing commercialized vice. For lack of competent assistants, we have not been able to give as much attention to this department as we should have given. I had hoped and I still hope to see every square foot of Chicago under the surveillance of these organized Councils who shall "set a watch over against their own houses," and who shall materially help in arousing and directing the public conscience of Chicago. It has been my privilege and duty to address more than a hundred public gatherings of one sort or another during the last year, in

behalf of these Councils or upon other phases of our work. I trust that in this way public sentiment has been stimulated and the battle line advanced.

WE ATTACK THE EXPLOITER, OTHERS MUST SAVE THE EXPLOITED.

We are often criticized for not doing more for the girls who are deprived of a livelihood by the work of this Committee and the activities of the Police Department. All I can say is that that is not our business. Narrowly speaking, our work is not constructive at present, but essentially destructive. We are directing our force toward destroying market places for traffic in women. While we may pity these wretched creatures who have fallen into the hands of vile men who are exploiting them, our business is to deal with the exploiter, and we must depend upon other organizations to do the rescue and constructive work. We wish it were possible to persuade these women to turn, as did the mares of Diomedes, and destroy their former masters.

CO-OPERATION APPRECIATED.

It is my pleasurable duty to call attention to the commendable spirit of co-operation shown by the social service organizations of Chicago. Personally, I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the Officers, Directors and Members of the Committee of Fifteen for their sympathetic and loyal support, without which little worth while could have been accomplished.

CONCLUSION.

Now, in conclusion, personally and in behalf of our Committee, I appeal to all good citizens to unite in a renewed attack upon this whole wretched business.

We should continue the work of exposing owners who, knowingly, lease their property for immoral purposes; co-operate with those

who desire to rid their property of undesirable tenants; frown upon and expose the villainous system of official pandering which is so much in evidence; co-operate with the authorities to the limit of our ability; render all possible aid to the unfortunate victims of a system which has made it easy to do wrong and hard to do right; lift the unjust ban now hanging over the immoral woman, without including the immoral man; promote every phase of moral education which will tend to save humanity from the direful consequences of this ancient evil which has been so accelerated by modern business methods.

With grateful acknowledgment to the God of all Righteousness for using us in this crusade, and depending upon Him for further guidance, let us move forward with faith, courage and resolute will until commercialized prostitution in Chicago shall be driven from its last intrenchment.

Respectfully submitted,

S. P. Thrasher,
Superintendent.

AN APPEAL TO THE FATHERS AND MOTHERS OF CHICAGO.

The fifteen to twenty thousand professional prostitutes plying their trade in Chicago two years ago came from so many homes somewhere in this wide world. It has been demonstrated beyond question that there are at least a thousand less houses of prostitution in Chicago today than there were then. That reduces the number of immoral women proportionately. If the average per house is three women, of which there is convincing evidence, that would mean three thousand less, which is a fair estimate. But even ten thousand is altogether too many. Whose daughters are they? Is your home afflicted?

It takes many thousands of young men and boys to make this horrible business in Chicago profitable. Are your sons among them? Thousands of homes in Chicago are overshadowed by this pestilential cloud called vice. Is your home in the shadow?

The Committee of Fifteen has played a large part during the last two years in closing the thousand or more houses of prostitution where the bodies and souls of women were sold for money, and where thousands of boys were started on the road to ruin. Cannot you lend a hand to deal a more crippling blow to the infamous dens which still remain?

The Committee of Fifteen has helped in restoring forty-four girls to their parents or in having them committed to correctional institutions. If any of them had been yours, would you have appreciated it to the extent of furnishing means to pursue this fight? There is no middle ground. Indifference and apathy are the chief obstacles to a successful war against vice.

The burden of expense last year was borne by a few hundred men and women. We should have several thousand fathers and mothers enlisted in this warfare. Will you not be among them, for the sake of your sons, your daughters, your homes and your city? We want you more than we want your money. We shall have you if we have your money. Will you not give from one dollar to a hundred to aid in this fight for you and yours?

All checks should be made payable to David R. Forgan, Treasurer, and you may send your gift to any member of the Committee or to the Central office, and it will receive prompt acknowledgment.

Address all communications concerning this work to Mr. Samuel P. Thrasher, Superintendent, 807 Otis Building, Chicago, Illinois.

Pledge Card

I hereby agree to give to THE COMMITTEE OF FIF-

TEEN

Dollars,

to be used for current expenses in its work against Commercialized Vice in Chicago during the fiscal year, ending April 30, 1916.

I further agree to pay this pledge during the month of _____, 191_____

Signed _____

Address _____

Date _____ 191_____

Pledge Card

I hereby agree to give to THE COMMITTEE OF FIF-

TEEN

Dollars,

to be used for current expenses in its work against Commercialized Vice in Chicago during the fiscal year, ending April 30, 1916.

I further agree to pay this pledge during the month of _____, 191_____

Signed _____

Address _____

Date _____ 191_____

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Annual Report
of the
Committee of Fifteen
for the year ending
April 30, 1916

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**Are Your Garbage
and Ashes Promptly
and Regularly
Removed**

?

If Not

**You Will Be Interested in
the Report of the Finance
Committee and the City
Council Giving Some of the
Reasons for Poor Service.**

FINDINGS OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

1. City teams are selected and dismissed in general for political reasons, rather than for causes affecting the good of the service.
2. City teams are in general appointed on the request of Aldermen or Ward Commissioners, or other persons of political influence.
3. City teams are offered or refused by Aldermen as a consideration for political support.
4. This system exerts undue and unfair pressure upon Aldermen in regard to legislative questions.
5. It appears that team owners are assessed in many instances for the privilege of city employment. The assessment ranges from 50 cents to \$1.00 per team. If this figure holds good throughout the service, the total amount so contributed would be from \$15,000.00 to \$300,000.00 per year.
6. This system of selecting teams helps to build up a spoils system and has a pernicious effect upon the whole government of the city.
7. The present system tends to bring into city employment an inferior kind of team and poorer service than would otherwise be obtained.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

Immediate discontinuance of the "pork barrel" method of employing garbage and ash teams and the substitution of a method insuring selection and continuance of teams on the basis of efficiency.

All selection and discontinuance of teams should be reported to the Council with the reason for the appointment or discontinuance.

Teams should be selected on the basis of definite and adequate specifications. The following specification is submitted as a general type of the requirement necessary:

Weight—Not less than 1,400 pounds.

Height—Minimum, 16 hands.

General Build and Description—

Chunk, short body, full ribs, clean leg bones and good shaped foot.

That the City undertake waste collection experimentally by wards or small districts, with motor trucks.

That these recommendations be transmitted to Commissioner of Public Works.

The foregoing findings and recommendations were unanimously adopted by the Finance Committee and the recommendations approved by the City Council by a vote of 49 to 18 on July 10, 1916.

If you have further suggestions as to how the service might be improved, or have specific instances of poor service, please write, the chairman of the subcommittee making the investigation on which the above findings and recommendations were based,

Alderman Charles E. Merriam,
127 N. Dearborn Street.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Committee of Fifteen
FOR THE YEAR ENDING
APRIL 30, 1916

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

FOR THE YEAR ENDING
APRIL 30, 1917

OFFICERS

HENRY P. CROWELL, President

JULIUS ROSENWALD, 1st Vice-President

ABRAM W. HARRIS, 2nd Vice-President

DAVID R. FORGAN, Treasurer

EDWIN W. SIMS, Secretary

DIRECTORS

MISS JANE ADDAMS
MYRON E. ADAMS
WILLIAM D. ALLEN
EDWARD P. BAILEY
J. H. BARBER
CLIFFORD W. BARNES
DOLPHUS C. BARTLETT
MRS. EMMONS BLAINE
MRS. JOSEPH T. BOWEN
BERTRUDE HOWE BRITTON
EUGENE J. BUFFINGTON
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MISS HARRIET E. VITTUM
WILLOUGHBY G. WALLING
A. STAMFORD WHITE
CHARLES P. WHITNEY

SAMUEL P. THRASHER, Superintendent

SIMS, WELCH & GODMAN, Counsel

Offices:—807 OTIS BUILDING
10 So. LA SALLE ST.

'Phone:—FRANKLIN 4440

GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is a pleasurable duty to extend greetings to the officers, the directors, the members, and the friends of the Committee of Fifteen. We are all to be congratulated that another year has passed recording such marked progress in the specific work in which the Committee is engaged.

The officers, directors, and executive committee have worked with one mind as to policy and execution of plans. A powerful weapon has been made available by the passage of the Injunction and Abatement law. It may well be doubted if any such law would be in force except for the efforts of this Committee, but with this weapon great progress has been made in the warfare on commercialized vice. The unity of thought and action by the members of our Committee and the generous financial support which has been extended presage further victories in behalf of a better Chicago.

The Committee has further reason for encouragement in the fact that for three years this difficult work has been so prosecuted as to receive only favorable comment in both news and editorial columns of the Chicago press.

The record for the year and the evidences of moral and material support are indeed encouraging as we press forward in our purpose to eliminate the market places for traffic in women.

(Signed) HENRY P. CROWELL,
President.

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Mr. President, Officers, Directors, and Members of the Committee of Fifteen:

The purpose of the Committee of Fifteen as officially stated is, "To aid the public authorities in the enforcement of laws against pandering and to take measures calculated to prevent traffic in women." It is no easy task to crowd into a brief report all that has been accomplished in the attempt to carry out the purpose of the Committee.

There are those who believe the Committee should have a broader policy and undertake more of what they call "constructive work." Any one who thinks seriously on this matter will see that much more can be accomplished if the Committee follows its present policy, which is, to direct its efforts toward the destruction of market places for traffic in women. All other issues are collateral. Commercialized vice in Chicago is a great menace and the Committee of Fifteen believes that its suppression is an absolute necessity in any constructive moral upbuilding, and adheres rigidly to its one purpose of eliminating the exploiters of women. It is my duty to lay before the Committee and the public the results of the Committee's efforts in that direction.

PUBLICITY

Our method of publishing the names of the owners of record of property used for immoral purposes was the fixed policy of the Committee until July, 1915, when the Injunction and Abatement law went into effect. Previous reports have dealt with the effectiveness of that method. Hundreds of houses of prostitution were closed as a result of that policy, but when the Injunction law became operative it was decided by unanimous vote that before making a legal attack upon any particular property the owner should have fair notice. That the plan was wise is evidenced by the results. During the present year and prior to July 1, we published a list of fifteen places together with the names of the owners. Five of the keepers of those fifteen places continued to defy the law and were later included in the cases reported and acted upon under the Injunction law, leaving ten places which were eliminated by the owners after May 1 and prior to July 1, 1915.

INJUNCTION LAW

During several sessions of the Legislature, attempts were made to secure the passage of an Injunction and Abatement bill, but without success. A year ago last winter, the Committee decided to take a strong stand in advocacy of the measure, and your Superintendent was authorized to use his utmost endeavor to secure the passage of that bill. The splendid cooperation of other organizations, the indorsement of real estate bodies, and the united advocacy by the press of Chicago convinced the Legislature of its merits, and the bill became a law and has been effective since July 1.

Our method of operation under that law is extremely simple. When evidence is secured that is deemed sufficient to prove a case if it goes to court—no action is taken without such evidence—an informal notice is sent to the owner of record that reports are in possession of the Committee showing that the property in question is being used in violation of law, and that if the allegations are proved to the satisfaction of the court, the court may issue an order closing the house, apartment, or place against its use for any purpose whatsoever for a period of one year, unless the owner gives a bond conditioned that he will, of his own motion, abate the nuisance. Attention is called to the fact that this is not the legal notice required by the law but an informal notice for the purpose of giving the owner reasonable time to institute correctional measures. If no attention is paid to the notice, a formal notice is personally served. In the formal notice, we set forth the facts concerning the violation of law and state in terms as follows: “ * * * * You are hereby notified that if the nuisance complained of is not by you abated and wholly discontinued within a reasonable time after the expiration of such five days, the undersigned, a citizen and resident of the City of Chicago, County of Cook and State of Illinois, residing at 4011 Lake Park Avenue, in said city, will file a petition in equity in the name of the People of the State of Illinois in a court of competent jurisdiction in Cook County, perpetually to enjoin you and all persons from maintaining or permitting the said nuisance, and from using or permitting to be used said building, apartment, or place * * * * for any purpose for a period of one year.” If the first notice does

not have the desired effect, the formal notice usually does. In case it does not, an injunction follows with all the legal verbiage and technicalities properly safeguarded by our counsel. One unfinished case required twenty-one pages of typewritten matter. The writs of injunction already issued have had the desired effect of abating prostitution in the premises enjoined. In one case, an appeal has been taken and in due time the constitutionality of the law will be settled. We have competent legal opinion that the law will be sustained. The principle of this law has been upheld in other states and we can imagine no reason why the law will not be sustained by the Supreme Court of Illinois.

KATE ADAMS LAW

The much discussed Kate Adams law, which permits the courts to commit inmates of houses of prostitution in lieu of fining them, has been something of a disappointment in view of the attitude of the courts. It is true there have been some commitments but it seems to be the opinion of some of the judges that this law is unconstitutional, and instead of assuming the law to be valid until the higher court rules to the contrary, they have expressed the opinion that the law is technically wrong. We must admit that the law was so drawn as to permit of just criticism and we shall be glad when the matter is finally settled.

RESULTS

During the ten months in which the Injunction law has been operative, we have served two hundred five informal notices involving two hundred two separate properties, three owners having been imposed upon by new and immoral tenants or by careless agents which has compelled the second informal notice. In all three instances, the tenants have been ousted upon our information without undue delay. We have been obliged to send only fourteen formal notices; that is to say, in one hundred ninety-one of the cases, the owners have acted or have promised to act, making it unnecessary to send the formal notices. Of these fourteen, ten have taken steps with more or less promptitude after receiving the second notice, so that as a net result we are pleased to report that of the two hundred five cases only four have

been brought under the ban of the law by means of the injunction. A few of the notices have been sent so recently that there has been no time for action. Considering the ten places which were eliminated under the former policy of publicity, we are able to report that the Committee has proceeded directly against a total of two hundred fifteen houses of prostitution during the year. These concrete facts do not tell the whole story. A letter recently received from a prominent real estate man reads:

"We wish to inform you that we ordered out some days ago Ruth O'Brien from the third flat at — E. — Street, and she has been out now for two or three days. The flat is now vacant.

"We also ordered Cleveland out of the second flat at — and she moved out several days ago.

"As to the flat occupied by a man of the name of Toushin where we understand Mrs. Wood has been staying, we have given these people a notice to vacate, and we trust they will do so at an early date."

The point of this is, we complained of one and three went down. This is a fair example of the effectiveness of the Committee's policy.

A final order has issued from the court against the Hotel Metz, 536 North Clark Street, ordering it closed for a year against its use for any purpose. In this case, an appeal has been taken and it is understood that there has been a combination of assignation hotel and resort keepers for the purpose of prosecuting the appeal and having the law declared unconstitutional. One of the best evidences of organized viciousness is this actual incorporation of the so-called "Chicago Hotel Keepers' Protective Association," many of the officers of which have police records. That organization is seeking with all the power it possesses to nullify the law which has proven so effective against the resorts in which it is interested. The Committee stands like a Gibraltar against all assaults from this or any other quarter.

Since the Kate Adams law went into effect there have been one thousand two hundred sixty convictions for immoral conduct of which we have record. We do not claim that the

record is complete. Of this number, there have been thirty-seven committed under the Kate Adams law as follows:

3 for 10 days
12 for 30 days
4 for 60 days
12 for 90 days
6 for 6 months

Until the courts made it known that there was a question about the constitutionality of this law, there was considerable consternation in the underworld and many houses of prostitution were abandoned by their keepers; but as soon as the validity of the law was assailed, the denizens of the underworld seemed to regain confidence and have put up a pretty stiff fight. It is the plain duty of the Committee to see to it that this law is sustained or a new one passed which will accomplish the purpose.

PANDERING

It is becoming more and more difficult to obtain convicting evidence against panders. The penalty of a thousand dollar fine and a year imprisonment, which have been effective in many cases, have had a decidedly deterrent effect, so that, while pandering is still in evidence, the offenders are alert to evade the law and escape punishment. During the year sixteen persons have been convicted and punished by fine, or by both fine and imprisonment. The total amount of fines and costs in cases in which our Committee has rendered assistance has been five thousand five hundred dollars, or an average of nearly three hundred fifty dollars per person, and the total term of imprisonment of sixteen persons has been nine years, three months, and twenty days, or an average of nearly seven months per person.

I recommend that our Legislative Committee take in hand as promptly as may be the matter of so changing the law as to make the offense of keeping a house of prostitution one of pandering. It is absurd that a pander who lives off the earnings of one girl may be punished with a year imprisonment and the imposition of a fine of one thousand dollars, whereas a keeper of a house of prostitution with several girls, off whose earnings the keeper profits, should escape with a maximum penalty of two hundred dollars and no impris-

onment. There are several changes in the laws which will be recommended in due time.

INDIVIDUAL CASES

Lack of space forbids the citing of many cases which might be interesting and profitable to relate. A year ago, we mentioned the case of Edward B. Hastings, who enticed a girl seventeen years old from her home and took her with him to California, after pawning her jewelry. We located them and with extradition papers brought them back. The man was charged with abduction. It was learned that he had married the girl, but as he had been previously married and had a wife and child in New York, the charge was changed to one of bigamy. He was convicted and fined one thousand dollars and sent to the penitentiary for from one to five years. There have been three desperate attempts to secure his pardon. We have protested and the Pardoning Board has refused the plea for his liberty. I have recently heard from the Pardoning Board that the Board has decided he must serve the maximum time.

THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Committee believes that a large majority of the men on the police force are honest and desire to do what is right, and would if restrictions were removed and proper discipline and efficiency were insisted upon by those in authority.

It is not a pleasant task for me to voice the sentiment of the Committee of Fifteen, in public utterance, against the police department, with which this organization has hitherto maintained such harmonious relations, but the time has come when this Committee, in possession of incontrovertible facts, cannot remain silent regarding the inefficiency and positive corruption which have been revealed in the police department.

POLICE NEGLECT DUTY

The Injunction and Abatement law was given to the state by its representatives as an effective weapon against vice. I can imagine no reason why the authorities upon whom the people depend for the enforcement of law should not use such an effective correctional means. We have yet to hear of the first effort by the police department to invoke the aid of

this law. Except for the efforts of the Committee of Fifteen, so far as Chicago is concerned, this law would be a dead letter.

The telephone is generally recognized as one of the greatest aids to commercialized prostitution. Early in 1914, the Committee of Fifteen learned that the Chicago Telephone Company was willing to remove telephones from known houses of prostitution upon notice from the police department that inmates had been convicted and upon a demand for the removal of the telephone. A committee was appointed to lay the matter before Chief Gleason. The Chief gladly assented to the plan and many demands were made and many telephones removed. This was a crippling blow to commercialized vice. Soon after Chief Healey was appointed, I took the matter up with him. Although he has been in office more than a year, there has not been a single telephone removed at his request. Why this should be, when not a day passes without the submission of evidence against houses of prostitution, is for him to explain.

The decent people of Chicago are alarmed at the marked increase of vice in dance halls and cabarets, two institutions which have become veritable traps for the unwary, where young girls are lured to prostitute life and young men and boys are started on the road to ruin. When policemen, with and without uniform, calmly watch the vicious orgies take place in these amusement centers without interfering, the neglect of official duty is painfully evident.

I am making no accusation of any ulterior or impure motives on the part of Chief Healey; I am simply stating cold facts.

When Chief Healey was appointed he promised all Chicago that he would drive the crooks from the city. We all believed that he meant to do it. We are still willing to believe that he was sincere. That he has lamentably failed to accomplish that purpose is a fact which must be evident even to him. I have said before, and I say again, that he must first drive the crooks out of the police department. When he does this, he will be better able to drive the crooks out of Chicago. A vigorous effort to clean up the police department would bring him the support of all the moral forces of the city.

POLICE PROTECT VICE

We say unequivocally that without collusion with the police, commercialized vice could not flourish in Chicago. For years there have been persistent rumors that the police were taking graft for protecting vicious resorts. While we believed that to be true to some extent, we confess that we had no idea of the boldness of the operations of the police. We have found policemen going personally and collecting tribute from women, and giving evidence of their willingness to protect vicious resorts by taking the keepers to the Morals Court to point out certain officers of the law against whom the women were to be on guard. We have dictagraph records of conversations and records of telephonic communications which reveal facts indicating that this system of graft is in vogue in all sections of the city where vice is prevalent. This evidence is now in the hands of the State's Attorney awaiting his action.

The Committee has concluded that it will in the future use its utmost endeavor to secure evidence and expose policemen who are engaged in what may be properly called official pandering. Every one found guilty of such practice should be punished to the full extent of the law. The Committee recommends that steps be taken to secure an unhampered force of investigators for the Second Deputy's office who shall have police powers to be exercised independently of any other authority. It is shameful that a policeman should ever be able to tell a keeper of a house of prostitution that she has nothing to fear from the Second Deputy's office, as the "reports from that office will be turned over to the captain of the district and be given to the detectives and nothing further be done about it." We believe also that the State's Attorney's office should have a large force of independent investigators with police power but no official connection with the police department.

It is the sincere desire of the Committee of Fifteen to assist the authorities in every possible way, and the Committee appeals to the administration and to Chief Healey to accept such assistance as it may offer in an effort to bring to punishment exploiters of women and despoilers of character.

SCHOOL CHILDREN MENACED

One of the most abhorrent conditions relating to matters with which the Committee deals is the proximity of houses of prostitution to school buildings where children of all ages go to prepare for the work of life. The Board of Education is contemplating or has already begun an investigation of this matter and seeks the cooperation of the Committee, which will be gladly extended. We have startling facts to reveal to the Board upon request. In this report, I will speak of the conditions surrounding only one school. Within two blocks of that schoolhouse, there have been at one time or another during the last three years a total of sixty-six houses of prostitution in operation. There are several operating within that territory at the present time, and recently the prostitutes have plied their trade in the daytime and have been conspicuous during the afternoon when school is dismissed. Officials who permit that condition to go unchecked should be indicted.

SCATTERATION BUGABOO

I will quote briefly from the introduction and summary of the report of the Vice Commission:

"Some who have a superficial knowledge of the 'Continental System' of segregation and regulation based on a cursory reading or surface investigation might bring it forward as a method of relief. One has but to read scientific works on the subject; to study the reports of international conferences held in Europe, and to hear the findings of careful investigators to see the unreliability and futility of such a system, and to learn of its failures as a permanent institution wherever it has been undertaken in this country or abroad. The Commission is convinced that the so-called System has proved itself degenerating and ineffective."

Our investigations have proved beyond question that segregation is a delusion and a snare. It is not true that the breaking up of the red light district has "scattered prostitutes all over the city." That they have opened up new places in some sections is true, but I doubt if there is a section of any considerable size in the city where it can be truthfully said that there

are today more houses of prostitution than there were before the red light district was broken up. The public conscience is alert and such places are noticed and commented upon to a greater extent than ever before. Carter H. Harrison, then Mayor, spoke the truth when he said:

"Though all the so-called segregated districts are closed and have been closed for months, there is no more vice in the outlying districts than there was during the wide open days."

A well organized system of propaganda has been operated for the purpose of creating a sentiment in the city in favor of segregation. Such efforts will prove futile in the face of an alert public conscience. No section of the city need be infested with immoral resorts. If valid complaints to the police do not bring results the Committee will be pleased to make investigations upon authentic information. Any one may appeal to the Committee and give information without fear of publicity.

A MORAL GIANT

In spite of all the discouraging things I have been saying about Chicago, I still have great hope for its future. There is a moral giant abroad in this big city and he is seeking to federate and utilize all the forces which make for city betterment. I hear him saying to the police grafter, "You have been tolerated long enough. We have no further use for you in Chicago"; I hear him saying to the spoils politician who has debauched every department of officialdom, "You, too, must go"; and I see him exercising his power until the police grafter, the spoils politician, the exploiter of women, and the despoiler of virtue no longer menace the city. Call it a vision if you will; to me it is a reality.

In my first utterance to the Committee of Fifteen in the spring of 1913, I said, "I believe the only successful means for coping with organized lawlessness is organized righteousness." I have seen nothing to change my opinion. I reiterate that statement today and express my belief that the moral forces of Chicago will become so organized and efficient as to demand and secure a reasonable observance of all the laws which make for the betterment of the community, and that the time will come when the last haunt of commercialized vice will be driven from Chicago.

CONCLUSION

I cannot close this report without expressing my sincere appreciation of the wise counsel I have received from the Advisory Board, the patient consideration of all matters brought to the attention of the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors, and the splendid way in which the Committee members, both officially and as individuals, have encouraged me in this more or less difficult task. It is indeed a pleasure to serve with and for such a Committee. It is with unmixed pleasure that I speak of the harmony which has existed throughout the entire year among the employes who serve the Committee under my immediate direction both in the office and on the investigating force. The Committee has been so fortunate in its choice of employes that there have been no changes during the year and there is no immediate prospect of such necessity. I believe I speak the truth conservatively when I say that every employe of the Committee has a genuine interest in the work wholly apart from material compensation. I wish, also, to express my appreciation and that of the Committee for the cooperation we have received at the hands of so many organizations and individuals. I make special mention of the Juvenile Protective Association, which is seeking to protect children from ruinous enticements. It has been our privilege to report dozens of cases to that organization, which have received prompt and effective attention.

With firm reliance upon divine guidance, may we not all take courage from the accomplishments of the past year and push forward with renewed vigor in our chosen field of activity, determined to accomplish yet greater things which shall make for the betterment of humanity.

Respectfully submitted,

S. P. THRASHER,

Superintendent.

AN APPEAL TO THE FATHERS AND MOTHERS OF CHICAGO.

The thousands of professional prostitutes plying their trade in Chicago three years ago came from so many homes somewhere in this wide world. It has been demonstrated beyond question that there are more than a thousand less houses of prostitution in Chicago today than there were then. That reduces the number of immoral women proportionately. If the average per house is three women, of which there is convincing evidence, that would mean three thousand less, which is a fair estimate. But there are thousands left. Whose daughters are they? Is your home afflicted?

It takes many thousands of young men and boys to make this horrible business in Chicago profitable. Are your sons among them? Thousands of homes in Chicago are overshadowed by this pestilential cloud called vice. Is your home in the shadow?

The Committee of Fifteen has played a large part during the last three years in closing many of these houses of prostitution where the bodies and souls of women were sold for money, and where thousands of boys were started on the road to ruin. Cannot you lend a hand to deal a more crippling blow to the infamous dens which still remain?

The Committee of Fifteen has helped in restoring scores of girls to their parents or in having them committed to correctional institutions. If any of them had been yours, would you have appreciated it to the extent of furnishing means to pursue this fight? There is no middle ground. Indifference and apathy are the chief obstacles to a successful war against vice.

The burden of expense last year was borne by a few hundred men and women. We should have several thousand fathers and mothers enlisted in this warfare. Will you not be among them, for the sake of your sons, your daughters, your homes and your city? We want you more than we want your money. We shall have you if we have your money. Will you not give from one dollar to a hundred to aid in this fight for you and yours?

All checks should be made payable to David R. Forgan, Treasurer, and you may send your gift to any member of the Committee or to the Central office, and it will receive prompt acknowledgment.

Address all communications concerning this work to Mr. Samuel P. Thrasher, Superintendent, 807 Otis Building, Chicago, Illinois.

Pledge Card

I hereby agree to give to THE COMMITTEE OF FIF-

TEEN

Dollars,

to be used for current expenses in its work against Commercialized Vice in Chicago during the fiscal year ending April 30, 1917.

I further agree to pay this pledge during the month of

_____, 191____

Signed _____

Address _____

Date _____

191____

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_____, 191____

Signed _____

Address _____

Date _____

191____

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Annual Report
of the
Committee of Fifteen
for the year ending
April 30, 1917

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WAR DEPARTMENT
COMMISSION ON TRAINING CAMP ACTIVITIES
WASHINGTON

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JOSEPH LEE

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AUG 4 1917

May 17, 1917

Mr. Samuel P. Thrasher,
COMMITTEE OF FIFTEEN,
10 South La Salle Street,
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Mr. Thrasher:

Thank you very much for your letter of May 11th. Needless to say, we are relying upon your organization and on similar organizations in the country not only for the continuance of their work, but for its even more active prosecution. It is highly important that all the large cities in the country should be kept clean, no matter whether they are located in the immediate vicinity of training camps or not, because hundreds of thousands of soldiers will be passing through, en route to other points.

Chicago comes under both these heads. That is, it is not only a city in the immediate vicinity of camps, but it is a city through which many soldiers will pass, and it is doubly important that every effort be taken to keep the city as free from prostitutes as it is humanly possible.

May I not take this occasion, therefore, to express the earnest hope of this commission that the Committee of Fifteen in Chicago, and all other agencies working in the city for the same end, may put forth doubled efforts in the direction I have indicated.

Yours very truly,

RAYMOND B. FOSDICK

Chairman.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Committee of Fifteen

FOR THE YEAR ENDING

APRIL 30, 1917

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JULIUS ROSENWALD, 1st Vice-President

ABRAM W. HARRIS, 2nd Vice-President

DAVID R. FORGAN, Treasurer

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SAMUEL P. THRASHER, Superintendent

SIMS, WELCH & GODMAN, Counsel

Offices:—807 OTIS BUILDING
10 So. LA SALLE ST.

'Phone:—FRANKLIN 4440

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1916/17

A Foreword by the President

Another year has come and gone and it becomes the duty of the Committee of Fifteen to render an account of its stewardship. That account is clearly presented in the following pages containing the Annual Report of our Superintendent.

Officers, directors and committees have worked with singleness of purpose for real achievement in the suppression of commercialized vice. The results revealed in the report are encouraging and stimulating. Legislation is being framed to protect the men in our army from the exposure, danger and disease resulting from the evil which we are endeavoring to suppress in this city. This is added proof of the value of our work. In speaking to the Committee and for the Committee to those who have so splendidly supported it, I wish again to emphasize its importance, and to renew the appeal for continued coöperation in the task of making Chicago a better place in which to live.

(Signed) HENRY P. CROWELL,
President.

Report of the Superintendent

*Mr. President, Officers, Directors and Members
of the Committee of Fifteen:*

PURPOSE

The Committee of Fifteen is engaged in war, not with Germany, but with commercialized vice in Chicago. At the beginning of this, my fourth annual report, I repeat what I have said many times, the Committee is directing its full force against commercialized prostitution and is not devoting time, energy or money in attempting to make people good by law.

The Committee is waging war on the pimp, the pander, the keeper of a house of prostitution, the owner or agent who leases property for immoral purposes; in fact, on any one who makes money from the sale of virtue. It is destroying the market places for traffic in women. The Committee believes that the time will come when the money nerve in this system of vice will be severed.

With the understanding, then, that the purpose of the Committee of Fifteen is the *ultimate suppression of commercialized vice*, I will undertake to record what the Committee has accomplished during the past twelve months.

METHODS

The Committee has no unusual or occult methods of operation. It employs trained investigators to gather facts and uses the facts in every way that intelligence, experience, and the law will permit in order to accomplish its purpose, always having in mind the possibility of interference by political chicaners, corrupt police, shyster lawyers, professional bondsmen, and grafters, as well as the parties in interest. When sufficient facts are obtained, they are collated and arranged in a manner to withstand any assault. I think the Committee merits congratulation that not a case has been taken into court on its initiative where conviction did not follow.

Briefly, the chief merit of the Committee's methods is thoroughness—thoroughness in gathering facts, thoroughness in collating and using them, thoroughness in everything it does—and I am not too modest to say that the Committee of Fifteen has acquired a reputation for thoroughness. It is generally understood that if the

Committee of Fifteen says a thing is so, it is so. I shall speak more particularly of our method in using the Injunction law, under that head.

LEGISLATION

The Committee of Fifteen was instrumental in securing the enactment of the Injunction and Abatement law by the Forty-ninth General Assembly. This law has proved to be a powerful weapon for the suppression of commercialized vice.

During the present session of the legislature, the Committee was responsible for the introduction of two bills. One was an amendment to the Pandering law which broadens its scope and makes it more effective against male prostitutes, who have become active in soliciting to prostitution since street soliciting by women has been so largely reduced. The law contains the words, "Who shall procure any female person who has not previously practiced prostitution." The amendment eliminates the clause, "Who has not previously practiced prostitution." "Female person" includes the prostitute as well as the innocent girl.

The other bill is an amendment to the Injunction law for the purpose of correcting a misconception regarding preliminary procedure. The proposed amendment in no way affects the law as to penalties, but enables its execution without the burdensome procedure required by the decision from the Appellate Court.

The Juvenile Protective Association caused the introduction of a bill known as the Dance Hall bill, the object of which is to eliminate the sale of liquor from dance halls. The Committee gladly rendered such assistance as it could in support of that measure.

The field of operation of the Committee of Fifteen is Chicago. Its experience, however, has proved of value to other states in securing constructive legislation.

INJUNCTION LAW

As already stated, the Injunction and Abatement law has proved to be a forceful weapon for the suppression of commercialized vice. The Committee has an effective system for its execution. The first move after securing sufficient evidence to warrant action is to send an informal

notice to the owner. If he is careless or defiant, the formal notice is served as required by law. If he persists in permitting his property to be used illegally, application is made for an injunction to close the house against its use for any purpose for a period of one year.

During the year, we have procured evidence against one hundred seventy (170) places and have sent to the owners of each property the informal notice. It is gratifying to report that one hundred nineteen (119) of these owners have taken such action as to make it unnecessary to serve the formal notice. Fifty-one (51) formal notices have been personally served on that number of owners who have not heeded the informal notice. In the formal notice we say:

“* * * You are hereby notified that if the nuisance complained of is not by you abated and wholly discontinued within a reasonable time after the expiration of such five days, the undersigned, a citizen and resident of the City of Chicago, will file a petition for a temporary injunction and a bill in equity in the name of the People of the State of Illinois, in a court of competent jurisdiction in Cook County, perpetually to enjoin you and all persons from maintaining or permitting the said nuisance, and from using or permitting to be used said building, apartment, or place in which said nuisance is maintained, for any purpose for a period of one year.”

This has been so effective as to make it necessary to apply for only six (6) injunctions, which have been granted and are now in force.

No one should be misled. It is not so simple as it might seem from reading this brief statement. In the first place, evidence must be obtained, evidence sheets read and analyzed, and the court records checked off, in order to be prepared to meet every denial before action is taken. In every case there are from four to a dozen or more evidence sheets. Assuming that there are but six, it would require a careful analysis of more than one thousand reports. In addition to this, new evidence must be obtained after the informal notice is sent. We frequently check off all previous work to ascertain its effectiveness. We are also obliged to obtain additional evidence after the formal notice has

been served before application is made for an injunction. It is apparent, therefore, that considerable systematic effort is required to obtain the results which we are able to report.

Some of the first injunctions issued were not permanently disposed of until within the last sixty days, when final decrees issued from the court and bonds were given in three instances conditioned that the owners would themselves keep the properties free from immoral use. One house, the most notorious in the lot, was torn down. We consented to a dismissal of the case.

It is gratifying to report that the attacks upon the constitutionality of this law have failed, the court having sustained the law in its entirety.

CO-OPERATION OF OWNERS AND AGENTS

I am pleased to report that in a large majority of cases we have received splendid coöperation on the part of owners and agents. Now it is not true that in most cases owners deliberately rent their properties for immoral use and receive exorbitant rents therefor. I venture to say that ninety per cent. of all the owners and agents with whom we have dealt are sincerely desirous of keeping their properties respectable. Many of them do not use the care they might and should regarding applicants for tenancy. They could avoid much trouble, and in the end save money, by greater precaution.

A few owners and agents are careless or defiant and at times drastic treatment is necessary to bring them to terms. There is less opposition than formerly, as the reputation of the Committee for fairness as well as thoroughness is becoming established.

I have advocated and am still advocating that the real estate owners and agents organize a reference bureau, or, under some suitable name, an organization to which all applicants not known to the renting party should be referred for indorsement. Such an organization, supported by all the real estate owners and agents of Chicago, would require a slight assessment, but would prove profitable to the owner.

PANDERING

Difficult as it has become to obtain convicting evidence against panders, the Pandering law is still effective. The penalty of a thousand dollar

fine and a year's imprisonment has kept down the number of cases of pandering at a more or less established minimum. During the year ending April 30, 1917, twenty-two (22) persons were convicted and punished by fine and imprisonment. The total amount of fines and costs was nine thousand dollars (\$9,000.00), or an average of four hundred nine dollars (\$409.00) per person, and their total term of imprisonment was seventeen (17) years, or an average of nine (9) months and one (1) week per person. Few of these cases would have been brought to the attention of the court but for the vigilance of the Committee's special officer.

KATE ADAMS LAW

The Kate Adams Law was enacted by the Forty-ninth General Assembly. It provides for the commitment of persons who are convicted of being inmates of houses of ill fame or of soliciting to prostitution. The law was intended as a remedial measure rather than a punitive one. The utter futility of fining prostitutes became apparent long ago to all who had given the matter serious thought and it was hoped that this commitment law would give an opportunity to extend real aid to the unfortunate victims of the vice system. It was thought by many of us that its scope would be even broader than its phraseology indicated, and that a keeper, male or female, of a house of prostitution would be classed as an inmate if residing within the house. This has been realized to some extent, as many keepers have been booked and sentenced as inmates of houses of prostitution. Some judges have so interpreted the law and several male keepers have been convicted and punished under it.

In a recent appeal, the Supreme Court rendered an opinion which is a bit disheartening to us and encouraging to male keepers and inmates of houses of prostitution. The opinion contains this surprising statement:

"The term, 'an inmate of a house of ill-fame or prostitution,' refers to one who is there for the purpose of plying *her* business, and necessarily refers to a woman."

As soon as this opinion was rendered, our counsel took the matter up with the State's

Attorney and the Attorney General, and a petition was filed for a rehearing. The petition was denied.

The law reads:

"Whoever is an inmate of a house of ill-fame or assignation or place for the practice of fornication or prostitution or lewdness, etc."

If a male resides in such a house, even though he does not himself practice prostitution or lewdness, he should, I believe, be subject to the penalties of this law. When we have so much evidence of the practice of soliciting to prostitution by males and the revolting evidence of pervert acts by males in these houses, it seems strange indeed that the law should be interpreted by any court to mean only females. Had this opinion been rendered a few weeks earlier, it might have been possible to have amended the law, defining inmates and making such an opinion impossible.

The law, however, has been of great value in the work of suppressing commercialized vice. It has had a tremendous influence in decreasing soliciting by women on the streets. Many prostitutes and their pimps have left the city rather than stand trial under this law. Its constitutionality has been upheld.

INDIVIDUAL CASES

All the space available for this report could be utilized in citing facts pertaining to individual cases, but there is so much else to be said that I will refer to only a few of the more outstanding among them.

PEARL MORTON

A notorious resort, known as Pearl Morton's, at 2249 South Wabash Avenue, had been a menace to the morals of Chicago for many years. It was commonly reported that she was immune from prosecution. How she managed it few beside herself knew, but all sorts of stories about graft and police protection went the rounds. With sufficient evidence to warrant it, we served the formal notice under the Injunction law in June, 1916. We obtained an Injunction on July 3th, but were unable to get personal service until the 28th. Some time in August there was evidence that the place was closed. Later the keeper moved and the house stood vacant for some time.

Recently it was torn down. This is only one of scores which have been razed to avoid the consequences of the law.

LIBBY MARTIN

Libby Martin, with her pull, was a conspicuous figure in the underworld for a long time. The Committee was responsible for moving her four times. A year ago last fall, a warrant was issued for her arrest under the Kate Adams law. The case was bandied about the courts from one judge to another, upon one pretext or another, until it became so farcical that the courts yielded to our insistence for trial. Her bond of one thousand dollars was forfeited and reinstated on at least two occasions. Finally, she was brought into court, tried and convicted.

For several months Libby Martin has been in Detroit. Reports indicated that when the first attack was made upon the resort which she controlled, she had ten or a dozen girls. Gradually the number was reduced until when she was arrested the last time she had only two. She thinks she was the subject of much persecution. We think she was tolerated all too long.

CADILLAC HOTEL

So much has been printed in the newspapers about the Cadillac Hotel that it seems superfluous to call attention to it. It was a vicious resort on the South Side, where liquors were sold without a license and where commercialized prostitution was the chief enterprise. We served notice upon the owners under the Injunction law, simultaneously with the issuance of warrants for the arrest of the three proprietors of the place. At about the same time a raid was organized, the Committee rendering assistance to the police in obtaining and collating evidence which was sufficient to convict the proprietors. This case is all the more worthy of note because of the attitude and opinion of the judge in pronouncing sentence. In reference to the position of the Committee of Fifteen, the court said:

“* * * I have found that they are not standing in this court in the position of prosecutors. * * * Their aim is to make Chicago a cleaner, better, healthier city to live in; to rid it of all places such as the Cadillac has been, and all others that are continually undermining the morals of this city.”

To the accused the judge said:

“* * * You are now found guilty. You may be punished now. I am merely deferring the entry of the sentence. * * * Should you gentlemen, or any one of you, be brought before me under conditions which will justify the termination of the probation, it will mean a jail sentence just as sure as you are standing before me now. * * *”

Referring again to our assistance in the matter, he said:

“* * * I wish to say to Mr. Thrasher and to the officers of the Committee of Fifteen and of the Juvenile Protective Association, that I appreciate the aid that you have given the Court. * * * I think work of that kind, especially in the spirit in which it is done, is deserving of public commendation.”

The Cadillac Hotel has since been used as a men's hotel. No evidence to the contrary has been obtained by our investigators.

ALEXANDER LEWIS CASE

Early in July I received a complaint from a man of more or less prominence in Chicago, stating that a relative of a friend had answered an ad in the Daily News for girls to serve as fashion models. An appointment was made with her in the Steinway Building, and there the fact was revealed that the man was seeking girls for immoral purposes. I asked if the girl would be willing to testify and he said no, he simply wanted to have us find out the facts. An investigation resulted in the arrest of Lewis, who was tried and convicted.

THE POLICE

There is cause for real rejoicing in the reforms which have taken place in the police department. The sequence of events shows the part the Committee of Fifteen played in bringing about these results. It will be remembered that in my last Annual Report, I said:

“It is not a pleasant task for me to voice the sentiment of the Committee of Fifteen, in public utterance, against the

police department * * * but the time has come when this Committee, in possession of incontrovertible facts, cannot remain silent regarding the inefficiency and positive corruption which have been revealed in the police department."

After citing special instances showing corruption and inefficiency on the part of the police, I continued:

"The Committee has concluded that it will in the future use its utmost endeavor to secure evidence and expose policemen who are engaged in what may be properly called official pandering. Every one found guilty of such practice should be punished to the full extent of the law."

In the early summer of 1916, we found the vice interests were regaining a footing in the old Twenty-second Street district. Some of the old places, such as Buxbaum's, The Capital, Freiberg's Dance Hall, and others, were controlled by old-time vice lords, who were giving evidence of an utter disregard of law and police authority. Having found sufficient evidence to warrant action against twenty-two vicious resorts in or in close proximity to the old red light district on the South Side, the Committee authorized the President to address a letter to Mayor Thompson, naming the places, citing conditions, and requesting the revocation of several licenses. In that letter the Committee said:

"We wish to call Your Honor's attention to another very serious phase of this bad situation. Not long ago this Committee gave out a list of places in the district against which it had evidence and of which it is now complaining. The General Superintendent of Police was quoted in the newspapers as saying:

" 'I know the lid is tighter than ever in the history of the district. Let me find any infractions and you shall see how quickly I will remedy them. I have been working successfully to improve conditions there and such charges are unfounded.'

"Such an utterance from such a source is inexplicable in view of the facts as we know them. If the police officials do not know of the conditions which

exist in that district, they must be classified as incompetent; if they do know them and refuse or neglect to act, then a much worse charge is fully warranted by the facts. It is for them to choose the horn of the dilemma on which to be impaled, as the impaling process is inevitable."

The letter was delivered by President Crowell in person, after an interview of some length, during which the intent and purpose of the Committee of Fifteen were clearly stated to the Mayor. The letter was referred to the Corporation Counsel, who, after investigation, seemed to think that some of the statements in our reports were exaggerated and requested the privilege of sending a man of his own choosing with our investigators to make a separate report. This was granted and the report of his special investigator revealed the fact that our reports were extremely conservative.

The Mayor revoked the licenses, and Chief Healey suspended two captains who were in charge of the districts involved. The evidence of our investigators was demanded at their trials. Both captains were found inefficient, fined, and transferred to other districts.

One of them went to the State's Attorney's office and revealed certain facts regarding Chief Healey. Then and there a fuse was lighted which has exploded several bombs already. Unless I am misinformed, there are other bombs still connected with that fuse. The former chief has been indicted on various charges and is awaiting trial; several captains, lieutenants, and others of lower rank, have been suspended and either dismissed or are now awaiting the action of the Trial Board. Opinions differ as to the methods employed by the State's Attorney, but I wish to be recorded as saying that the State's Attorney should be commended for his relentless warfare on vice promoters and grafters within the police department.

There seems to be a real desire on the part of the new police heads to purge the department of the disloyal men and criminal parasites who have infested it so long. Progress in that direction is being made. Chief Schuettler, First Deputy Westbrook, and Second Deputy Funkhouser, should receive every encouragement from all who desire an honest and efficient police department.

During the year 1914, the Second Deputy's office, under Major Funkhouser, did splendid work for the city in suppressing commercialized vice, but when he was ruthlessly shorn of his power, against protests and appeals from those who were in a position to know the facts, the vice interests became active and defiant, while the police department became inactive and connivant. It has taken strenuous efforts on the part of loyal public servants and the Committee of Fifteen and other social service organizations, and many expressions from Chicago's quickened conscience, to prevent the forces of evil from retaking their old trenches and establishing a rule of lawlessness. The tide has turned and there is promise of better things for Chicago.

SCATTERATION BUGABOO

The chief objections made against work of this character are that "it scatters prostitutes all over the city" and that "nice sections are being ruined by the influx of immoral women." My answer to these objections is, if it were all true, it should not change our attitude in the least. The more respectable and well-to-do a neighborhood is, the better equipped it is to prevent the inroads of vice. There is no legal or moral justification for giving consent to the prevalence of vice in one neighborhood and objecting to it in another. I recently heard an intelligent business man say, "It is a crime to drive these prostitutes out into respectable residential districts." In reply, I said, "It is a crime to leave them to ply their trade in any residential district." The poorer neighborhoods, which are infested with vicious resorts, are as "respectable" in many senses as are the districts so often referred to as reputable residential districts. If it were all true it should not change the attitude of the Committee of Fifteen toward segregated vice. But it is not true. That prostitutes are opening up houses in some sections of the city is true, but they have always been doing that. Generally speaking, there is no more vice in the residential districts than there was during the days when vice was rampant. The public conscience is alert and houses of ill-fame are discovered and talked about today as they were not a few years ago. The Committee of Fifteen will be pleased to receive reliable information concerning any questionable resort in any part of Chicago and will do its best to correct conditions.

Our attitude should be that all sections of the city are respectable. If we find them otherwise, we should make them respectable. We certainly should not make any district or ourselves disreputable by recommending the concentration of vice in any particular spot outside of hades.

PUBLIC ADDRESSES

It has been my privilege to address forty-eight (48) meetings of one sort or another relative to the work of the Committee of Fifteen, and I note with pleasure an increasing interest in the reports of the Committee's activities. Real civic pride in the betterment of moral conditions already realized is being manifested in all parts of Chicago.

I have also been called upon to make addresses concerning the work of the Committee in Gary and Indianapolis, Indiana; St. Louis, Missouri; Lexington, Kentucky; Bloomington, Illinois, and elsewhere; and have been obliged to decline invitations to go to New York, California, and other states, where people desired to hear of the Committee's work.

CHICAGO'S CONSCIENCE

I have been saying in all my public addresses that Chicago's conscience was awakened by the publication of the report of the Vice Commission in 1911. From the introduction and summary of that report I quote:

"We believe that Chicago has a public conscience which, when aroused, cannot be easily stilled—a conscience built upon moral and ethical teachings of the purest American type—a conscience which when aroused to the truth will instantly rebel against the social evil in all its phases."

Chicago's conscience was then awakened. It has not been stilled since, and I am expressing the belief that it is so thoroughly aroused that it can never be stilled until commercialized vice in Chicago shall be no more. Chicago's official conscience is also being pricked at the moment, and if that becomes awakened, it will aid materially in saving Chicago permanently from the thrall-dom of viciousness. If these two public consciences can be aroused to the right kind of

coöperative activity for the constant and persistent repression of prostitution, with absolute annihilation as the ultimate ideal, it will presage a blessed day for Chicago.

CONCLUSION

In concluding this report, I would be neglectful indeed did I not express my sincere appreciation to the officers and all members of the Committee for their loyal support in the intensive duties assigned me. I cannot find words to express my gratitude to President Crowell and other directors for their patience in listening to me when I have felt the need of their counsel, and for their painstaking advice on matters of importance to the Committee. The fact that the Committee has made no mistake worthy of note is not due to the wisdom of your Superintendent so much as to that of the Advisory Board—Mr. Crowell, Mr. Rosenwald, and Mr. Sims—who have had a large part in steering the Committee through the danger zones which are inevitably in its course. It is my pleasurable duty to tell them and the Committee how much I appreciate their advice and assistance.

There has been no change in our office force and everything is working smoothly. It has become necessary to make a complete change in our investigating staff. It is remarkable that we were able to keep a number of our men nearly three years. Although it will be difficult to secure new men who will be as reliable and efficient, it can be done. I do not understand that any change of policies or plans is contemplated and I am not recommending any.

We should not fail to recognize the coöperation and assistance received from the social service organizations whose lines of activity have temporarily converged with those of the Committee.

Nothing has occurred during the year which should deter the Committee from doing its utmost to carry into further and more successful operations its well conceived policy for the suppression of commercialized vice.

Respectfully submitted,

S. P. THRASHER,
Superintendent.

Pledge Card

I hereby agree to give to THE COMMITTEE OF FIF-

TEEN _____ Dollars,

to be used for current expenses in its work against Commercialized Vice in Chicago during the fiscal year ending April 30, 1918.

I further agree to pay this pledge during the month of _____, 191_____

Signed _____

Address _____

Date _____ 191_____

Pledge Card

I hereby agree to give to THE COMMITTEE OF FIF-

TEEN _____ Dollars,

to be used for current expenses in its work against Commercialized Vice in Chicago during the fiscal year ending April 30, 1918.

I further agree to pay this pledge during the month of _____, 191_____

Signed _____

Address _____

Date _____ 191_____

**Endorsed by the Chicago Association of
Commerce Subscriptions Investigating
Committee for the regular period ending
November 30, 1918.**

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

FEB 18 1918

Committee of Fifteen

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

APRIL 30, 1918

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

—

HENRY P. CROWELL, President

JULIUS ROSENWALD, 1st Vice-President

A. STAMFORD WHITE, 2nd Vice-President

DAVID R. FORGAN, Treasurer

EDWIN W. SIMS, Secretary

DIRECTORS

—

MISS JANE ADDAMS

JOHN JAY ABBOTT

MYRON E. ADAMS

WILLIAM D. ALLEN

EDWARD P. BAILEY

A. H. BARBER

CLIFFORD W. BARNES

ADOLPHUS C. BARTLETT

ARTHUR DEAN BEVAN

MRS. EMMONS BLAINE

MRS. JOSEPH T. BOWEN

MRS. GERTRUDE H. BRITTON

EUGENE J. BUFFINGTON

NATHANIEL BUTLER

RUSH C. BUTLER

HENRY P. CROWELL

RICHMOND DEAN

DR. W. A. EVANS

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CHARLES P. WHITNEY

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MRS. L. M. MAITLAND

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BRUCE McLEISH

CARLETON MOSELEY

JOHN W. O'LEARY

JAMES A. PATTEN

EARL REEVE

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W. C. SHURTLEFF

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EDWARD M. SKINNER

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JOHN STUART

HAROLD H. SWIFT

GRAHAM TAYLOR

MISS HARRIET E. VITTUM

A. STAMFORD WHITE

MRS. ELLEN M. HENROTIN

HENRY H. HILTON

VICTOR F. LAWSON

SAMUEL P. THRASHER, Superintendent

SIMS, WELCH & GODMAN, Counsel

Offices: 807 OTIS BUILDING

10 S. La Salle St.

'Phone: FRANKLIN 4440

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1/18

Greetings from the President

It is again incumbent upon the Committee of Fifteen to render an account of its work to those who have so generously supported it and to others who should know of what has been done in the battle of virtue against vice in Chicago.

The officers, directors, and executive committee have worked in ever increasing harmony, the effect of which is shown by the report of our superintendent in the following pages.

We are gratified that the Committee has been able to render efficient service toward protecting soldiers and sailors from the contamination of immoral women. We especially commend to your attention that part of the report which refers to training camps. Mr. Fosdick's letter is significant.

The record of the year and the brief summary for the last five years are so encouraging that we look forward with assurance to the continuance of the support of everyone who has in any way aided in the securing of the results herein recorded. We are strengthened by the confidence that Chicago will some day be free from the evils of commercialized prostitution.

H. P. CROWELL,
President.

Raymond B. Fosdick
Chairman

Lieut. Richard E. Byrd, U. S. N.
Secretary

Clifford W. Barnes
Walter Camp
Selah Chamberlain
John J. Eagan
Joseph Lee
E. T. Meredith

Barton Myers
Charles P. Neill
Mrs. Helen Ring Robinson
Mrs. Finley J. Shepard
Mrs. Daisy McLaurin Stevens
John S. Tichenor

NAVY DEPARTMENT
Commission on Training Camp Activities
WASHINGTON

April 15, 1918.

*Mr. Samuel P. Thrasher, Supt., 10 South LaSalle
Street, Chicago, Illinois.*

MY DEAR MR. THRASHER:

I have your letter of April 10th, enclosing the section of your annual report relating to the activities of the Committee of Fifteen in connection with men in the service in Chicago. I have read the section, and think it sums up excellently the splendid work which you have done in cooperation with this Commission.

We greatly appreciate this cooperation. Our task in making clean communities to which Soldiers and Sailors stationed near Chicago have access while on liberty has been lessened to a marked degree by the effective work done during the last five years by the Committee of Fifteen. I hope that nothing will prevent the continuance of the Committee's work, and the intimate relation between its representatives and this Commission.

Very truly yours,
(Signed) RAYMOND B. FOSDICK,
Chairman.

RBF:TNP

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

*Mr. President, Officers, Directors, and Members
of the Committee of Fifteen:*

It is with keen satisfaction that I undertake to write a report of things accomplished by the Committee of Fifteen during the fifth year of my service as its superintendent.

SUMMARY

After giving a brief summary of the work for the year, I will summarize for the last five years, in order that you may have a comprehensive review of the work in which you are interested.

During the year just closed, the Committee has moved directly against two hundred seventy (270) houses of prostitution by serving upon the owner of each a notice regarding immorality upon his premises; it has caused to be served personally sixty-five (65) formal notices, and has applied for and obtained four (4) injunctions. It has had to do with the conviction of fourteen (14) panders who were fined a total of fifty-six hundred dollars (\$5,600), or an average of four hundred dollars (\$400) per person; and who were sentenced to a total imprisonment term of nine and one-half ($9\frac{1}{2}$) years, or an average of eight (8) months per person.

The Committee has made investigations concerning training camps and the general conditions in Chicago as affecting soldiers and sailors. It has appeared in behalf of needed legislation before the general assembly and before aldermanic committees; it has done what it could do by public address and literature to stimulate the civic conscience to the end in view; it has aided by information and advice many organizations in other states and countries; it has worked to the limit of its intelligence and budget toward the suppression of commercialized vice.

During the last five years, the Committee has moved directly against thirteen hundred seventy-nine (1,379) houses of prostitution. Seven hundred thirty-four (734) of these were proceeded against by publishing in the newspapers the names of the owners of the properties involved. Six hundred forty-five (645) have been acted upon since July 1, 1915, by serving upon the owner of each a notice under the Injunction law regarding immorality upon his premises. It has caused to be served personally one hundred thirty (130) formal notices and has applied for and obtained fifteen (15) injunctions. It has rendered assistance in the conviction of one hundred five (105) panders who were fined a

total of thirty-eight thousand ninety-two dollars (\$38,092), or an average of three hundred sixty-three dollars (\$363) per person; ninety-one (91) were sentenced to a total imprisonment term of seventy (70) years, or an average of nine (9) months per person.

Five years ago there were hundreds of houses of prostitution as open as meat markets and evidences of vice were as common as garbage. Today a stranger may go from one end of the city to the other without coming into contact with vice at all; in other words, the flagrant outward expression of vice, so common then, has been eliminated from public gaze.

Street soliciting has been reduced at least eighty-five per cent. Houses of prostitution have been reduced at least seventy per cent.; that is to say, there are not thirty houses of prostitution plying trade in Chicago where there were a hundred five years ago. Pimps and panders, those vultures who live off the corruption of society, have been eliminated to a marked degree. There are not fifteen of them plying trade openly in Chicago where there were a hundred five years ago.

I do not wish to be misunderstood. I make no claim that Chicago is free from vice. Immoral resorts are to be found in all parts of the city, but one has to hunt for them today, whereas five years ago they were flaunting viciousness in the face of decency without fear of being molested.

The Committee makes no claim that it is wholly responsible for the wonderful change that has come over Chicago in the matter of the elimination of vice. Due credit should be given to the police department, to the federal authorities, and to all social service organizations which have contributed to this remarkable showing, but the Committee of Fifteen may be justly proud of its part in bringing about the changes which are so marked as to astound those who were familiar with the old conditions.

The Committee's success is largely due to its strict adherence to the policy, "This one thing I do." Secret or clandestine vice is not the object of attack of the Committee of Fifteen. The Committee is waging war on pimps, panders, keepers of houses of prostitution, owners, agents, police and political grafters, and all others who make money by promoting vice. The Committee's definite goal is the ultimate suppression of commercialized prostitution in Chicago.

LEGISLATION

During the session of the fiftieth general assembly, the Committee applied for and secured a very important amendment to the Pandering

law. The old law contained the words, "who shall procure any female person who has not previously practiced prostitution." The amendment eliminates the clause, "who has not previously practiced prostitution." The words, "female person," now include the prostitute as well as the innocent girl.

As to local legislation, the two measures in which the Committee has been vitally interested and in regard to which it has exercised its influence are the cabaret ordinance and the repeal of the special bar permit ordinance.

If the cabaret ordinance stands the test, it will eliminate a great deal of viciousness. The cabaret as conducted in Chicago is a menace to decency. It is the legitimate heir of the old concert saloon with all its vice and villainy made more dangerous by a camouflage of respectability.

The special bar permit ordinance constitutes a legal aid to the promotion of vice. Under the guise of innocent amusement, dances promoted under this ordinance provide soil and sow seeds of vice which grow to hideous proportions. There is no way to eliminate the evils of which the Juvenile Protective Association and others have so persistently complained except by the repeal of that ordinance. The time is ripe for that action, and I believe the ordinance will soon be repealed.

INJUNCTION LAW

No weapon used by the Committee has proved so effective in the accomplishment of its purpose as the Injunction and Abatement law. As you all know, this law went into effect July 1, 1915. The first case taken to court under it was appealed on the ground that the law was unconstitutional, but the Supreme Court differed from the appellant's theory and rendered a decision without ambiguity, declaring the law to be constitutional and just.

During the year, the Committee procured evidence sufficient to warrant action against two hundred seventy (270) places and sent to the owner of each property involved an informal notice calling attention to the fact that the Committee had evidence showing that the property was being used for immoral purposes. It is gratifying to report that two hundred five (205) of these owners have taken such action as to make it unnecessary to serve upon them the formal notice required by the law. Sixty-five (65) formal notices have been personally served upon that number of owners who have not heeded the informal notice. The formal notice makes it definite that unless prompt action is taken to correct conditions, a petition will be filed for a

temporary injunction as well as a bill in equity asking that the place be enjoined from being used for any purpose for a period of one year. This notice has been so effective that it has been necessary to apply for only four injunctions during the year.

McGOVERN CASE

On June 21, a petition was presented to Judge Baldwin for an injunction against the McGovern resort at 661 North Clark Street. The McGoverns, through their attorney, filed affidavits setting up prejudice on the part of Judges Baldwin and Smith and asking for a change of venue. Judge Baldwin assigned the case to Judge Windes. As Judge Windes was ill, the attorneys went before Judge Scanlan to have the case re-assigned. Judge Scanlan took the matter up with the executive committee of the Court, and an order was entered transferring the matter to a Master in Chancery. Hearing after hearing was held. More than five hundred affidavits were submitted and considered by the Master. First the McGoverns brought in forty-two affidavits. We met this attack with about one hundred affidavits gathered with care from responsible persons, including all three heads of the police department, four members of the Committee of Fifteen (Mrs. Bowen, Miss Vittum, Miss Sears, and Reverend Dr. Stone), and your superintendent. The others were from people in the neighborhood who knew of the reputation of the place, some of them citing concrete facts concerning the viciousness at the resort. It required a great deal of work to produce these affidavits. We thought we had the enemy overwhelmed, but we were met with about three hundred fifty additional affidavits gathered from all sorts of people and in all sorts of ways. We then gave up the idea of outnumbering the foe and depended upon skill and justice. Mr. Godman, of counsel, is entitled to much credit for his skillful analysis of the evidence on both sides and his clear and convincing presentation to the Master. It was a battle royal from the beginning.

After a comprehensive finding of facts supported by evidence, the Master sustained the Committee's petition and recommended that the injunction issue.

Immediately after this recommendation was made, counsel for the McGoverns entered eighteen objections which were overruled by the Master. The case came before Judge Pinckney and was argued at length by counsel for both sides. The objections were overruled, and the Master's recommendations approved. The demurrer to the bill was also overruled. That resor

is now, for the first time in years, under the ban of the law. I am much pleased with this outcome not alone because of the long and expensive fight but because of the previous vicious character of the place. It was a rendezvous for soldiers and sailors. In one evening our investigators counted fifteen men in uniform in this resort.

One of the strongest points urged by the defendant's counsel was the preponderance of evidence. In his decision, Judge Pinckney said:

"In determining on which side was the greater weight of the evidence, the Master, in the opinion of the Court, was fully justified in considering the standing and well known probity of certain citizens whose affidavits were filed in behalf of the People; nor has the Court any hesitation whatever in saying that the affidavit of such a well known and estimable citizen as Miss Harriet Vittum would surely outweigh the affidavit of a night-robed singer in the defendant's saloon."

THE CAPITOL

Another case worthy of mention is the Capitol at 32 West 22nd Street, one of the worst resorts in the old south side segregated district, where it had the reputation of housing ninety girls who plied their trade in regular shifts of thirty each every eight hours. The place was closed as a result of the Committee's efforts, and remained closed for more than a year. Under the present administration, a new license was issued. The place opened up, and gradually its old viciousness returned. We again requested the revocation of the license which was revoked on September 30, 1917. Application was made for an injunction and finally on October 26, 1917, Judge Baldwin issued a decree closing the place against its use for any purpose for a period of one year. As this place has been under the control of the Weiss brothers, two notorious vice promoters, there is some satisfaction in the result accomplished.

OTHER CASES

There are two cases pending in the courts on appeal which will be reached some time.

In two cases we have consented to dismissals of the injunctions. In one case the keeper was forced by the owner to vacate and the house was razed. In the other, the tenant was dispossessed and the property converted into an automobile shop. In both cases, the Committee filed records of the facts and consented to dismissals.

COOPERATION OF OWNERS AND AGENTS

A tremendous agency for the accomplishment of the Committee's purpose is the gradually increasing number of owners and agents who are becoming converted to the Committee's viewpoint that it is neither good business nor good morals to permit property to be used for immoral purposes. Five years ago, there were few owners and agents who approved of the Committee's activities against vice. Today there are few who would be willing publicly to oppose the Committee's purpose and policy.

It will be remembered that in 1914, when we began our campaign for the advocacy of the Injunction and Abatement law, practically all the real estate organizations in Chicago were hostile to the bill, and were preparing to send representatives to Springfield to oppose its passage. It was the privilege of your superintendent to hold several conferences with the officials of these organizations, with members of the Committee, with counsel for the Chicago Law and Order League, and with others, which finally resulted not only in the withdrawal of opposition but in the giving of written indorsements by the Chicago Real Estate Board, the Cook County Real Estate Board, and the Apartment Buildings Association. Since then there has been no organized effort by real estate men against the Committee's activities, but there has been considerable personal, official, and corporate action in favor of the Committee's policy. In evidence of this, I quote a few letters which have been received from owners and agents during the last year bearing upon this phase of the problem.

In June we received a letter from a prominent real estate owner from which we quote:

"Replying to your favor of May 25th with reference to the premises at No. ————Street, we write to assure you of our active cooperation in bringing about a satisfactory adjustment of this matter, to which end the writer on behalf of Mr. ———— will take up the matter with the present occupant at once."

Another real estate firm said:

"We have not neglected your notice in this matter, and do not sanction any such carrying's-on in any of our buildings. When we have found such conditions existing, we have taken firm measures to eject the people immediately."

One real estate owner wrote as follows:

"Copy of your report with your valued note of the 17th, convinces me that the tenant referred to (flat 3, No. ————Street) must be disposed of at once, and to this end I have instructed the agent, and have his assurance that he will act diligently.

"I can only add keen regret and some shame at having been so nearly identified with the condition you recite."

Another owner said:

"This letter is in reply to your letter of the 19th inst. to Mr. ————of ————City, regarding one of the tenants in Mr. ————'s building at No. ————Street.

"The writer is the agent of this building, and I am pleased to inform you that the apartment No. 9, second floor, now occupied by Mrs. ————, will be vacated by the end of this week. The other party by the name of ————, in Apt. 18, does not rent from me, but sublets from another party, this apartment being a furnished flat. I have notified the party that leased the flat from me, and I assure you that this party by the name of ————will vacate the flat at once.

"It is not our purpose to lease the flats to people of this character, and we are glad to cooperate with you at any time to keep the class of tenants up to a higher standard.

"Assuring you that we are ready and willing to work in harmony with the Committee of Fifteen at any time, I remain."

Last fall we received a telegram from an owner who was out of town, our notice having been forwarded to him:

"Thanks for letter of fourth instant about No. ———— Street, which has reached me here. I am moving at once to stop evil conditions, but it may perhaps become necessary presently to ask your aid by injunction against tenant. Please continue watchfulness."

Only recently we received a letter from an owner which indicated a misconception of our method, and a somewhat hostile attitude on his part. The letter reads:

"As much as I respect the good work done by the Committee of Fifteen, I

should as much expect a similar charge of vice existing in my own home in ———, as the one referred in your letter of March 30th, charges against my building at No. ——— Street.

"It is simon-pure imagination, and such charges will destroy whatever prestige you might have with me.

"Mrs. ——— rents the entire building from me, and makes it her personal business to accept only reputable people.

"Be more specific and discharge the lieutenant who made this ridiculous report. Mrs. ——— would welcome an interview."

The interview he suggested was held, and Mrs. ——— was convinced that the Committee's evidence was reliable. A second letter from him reads:

"Please accept my humble apology for the letter I recently wrote you referring to my building No. ——— Street.

"I am now convinced that your report was based on a condition that existed there, that at the time I did not believe possible.

"Please accept my assurance that it is our desire to cooperate with you in an effort to keep our premises clean of vice; call on me any time for assistance."

A few weeks ago, we received inquiry from Kentucky concerning the attitude of Chicago real estate men toward the Injunction law. We wrote three representatives of large real estate organizations and prominent real estate firms, sending a copy of the inquiry and requesting them to answer directly. All three responded. Their letters are extremely interesting as illustrating the changed attitude of the real estate men of Chicago. I quote one from Mr. Wm. Scott Bond, of Wm. A. Bond & Co.:

"At the suggestion of Mr. S. P. Thrasher of the Committee of Fifteen in this City I write you concerning the Injunction and Abatement Law.

"I had some part in conferences of real estate men with the Committee of the men who prepared this bill, and we made a number of suggestions which were adopted by them and, I believe, the bill in its present form and as now employed by the Committee of Fifteen is a

very good thing and operates without undue injury to property.

"The real estate men felt, however, that a provision for a bond which should be required from any persons starting an injunction suit was highly necessary; and, as to the period for closing the premises, I do not think a year is too long if sufficient precautions are placed about the cases to secure a fair trial and secure ample previous notice to the owners and agents. The law can and does, I believe, operate here very well with the cooperation of real estate agents, and that attitude is largely due to the policy of giving the agents notice and a fair opportunity for investigation and correction of conditions before any litigation is instituted. I can easily see however that unless notice should be given to agents acting in good faith and an opportunity for investigation before publicity, there might be a lack of cooperation and sympathy between the agents and those seeking to enforce the law which would very greatly hinder its operation and success. This danger however has been avoided by the plan of action adopted by the Committee of of Fifteen here."

I have been urging real estate men to organize a reference bureau to which all applicants not known to the renting party should be referred for indorsement. A little more care on the part of renting agents would prevent many owners of property from becoming involved in the maelstrom of vice.

SCATTERATION BUGABOO

There are many men and a few women who are still so far behind the times as to believe that a segregated vice district is necessary if vice is to be curtailed or controlled to any appreciable extent. They fail to comprehend the most potent fact in the consideration of this problem; that is, segregation does not segregate. The evidence is overwhelming that the system has been a failure wherever tried. It is only a delusion and a snare, and yet there are those in Chicago who are still obsessed with this fallacious theory. Their chief argument is that it scatters prostitution into respectable neighborhoods to their moral detriment. Such an argument has no basis in fact worth considering. What about the morals of the community in which the segregated district is established? What about the oppor-

unity for graft? What about the open flagrant expressions of vice which such a plague spot produces?

It is not true that vice has been scattered all over the city. There is no more vice in the outlying districts than there was when the three segregated districts were running full blast. That prostitutes have crept into respectable neighborhoods to some extent is true, beyond doubt, but I repeat what I have said again and again, the more respectable and well-to-do a neighborhood is the better equipped it is to prevent the inroads of vice. The fact is the public conscience has become aroused and a house of prostitution in any locality is discovered and talked about, and an effort made to remedy the evil, while the same house would have been unnoticed or taken for granted a few years ago. The man or woman who advocates the reestablishment of segregated vice in Chicago must do it from a lack of knowledge of the facts, or from a perverted mind, or from pecuniary interest. There is no legal, moral, or practical justification for establishing vice centers.

PANDERING

It has become more and more difficult to secure evidence which will convict under the Pandering law. During the year just closed, the Committee has assisted the authorities in convicting and punishing fourteen panders. The total amount of fines and costs was fifty-six hundred dollars (\$5,600), or an average of four hundred dollars (\$400) per person. The total term of imprisonment was nine and one-half ($9\frac{1}{2}$) years, or an average of eight (8) months per person.

VICE PROMOTERS

Vice promoters include not only pimps, panders, prostitutes, and keepers of houses of prostitution, but also janitors of buildings, hotel door men, elevator men, and particularly private chauffeurs and regular drivers for taxi companies.

Some of the taxi companies are taking drastic means to control the evil. It was our privilege to notify one company concerning six of their drivers who had been caught piloting people to various resorts. The evidence was conclusive. The six men were discharged immediately, and my letter posted in the company's garages with a warning that every means would be used to bring to punishment any chauffeur who was found guilty of such practice. It had the immediate effect of cur-

tailoring that source of revenue from commercialized vice. It is our hope that under the amendment to the Pandering law, we shall be able to prosecute chauffeurs and others who are guilty of providing men for women or women for men for illicit purposes.

SOCIAL AGENCIES

The Committee still maintains amicable relations with other social service agencies wherever lines of activity merge. The organization with which the Committee cooperates to a greater extent than any other is the Juvenile Protective Association. This cooperation has worked to mutual advantage in many instances.

TRAINING CAMPS

The proximity of several training camps to a big city like Chicago presents a problem of great magnitude. We are all to be congratulated upon the strong stand the government has taken toward minimizing the evil influences of the exploitation of vicious women. About a year ago, Secretary Daniels said:

"There lies upon us morally, to a degree far outreaching any technical responsibility, the duty of leaving nothing undone to protect these young men from that contamination of their bodies which will not only impair their military efficiency but blast their lives for the future and return them to their homes a source of danger to their families and to the community at large."

About the same time, the Secretary of War made the following statement:

"Our responsibility in this matter is not open to question. We cannot allow these young men, most of whom will have been drafted to service, to be surrounded by a vicious and demoralizing environment, nor can we leave anything undone which will protect them from unhealthy influences and crude forms of temptation."

These utterances from the heads of the War and Navy Departments have had a far-reaching effect, and their ideals have been followed by systematic and practical efforts which have been of world-wide influence. The creation of the Commission on Training Camp Activities, with Raymond Fosdick as its chairman, was a great piece of constructive work.

It has been our privilege to work in cooperative relations with Mr. Fosdick's Commission. We

have made several investigations at the Great Lakes and at Fort Sheridan, and have sent reports to Washington. The great advantage, however, of the Committee of Fifteen toward the Commission's objective is its regular work in Chicago in closing houses of prostitution and disorderly resorts which would corrupt and demoralize soldiers and sailors visiting them. When we briefly report nearly three hundred places against which we have moved effectively, it means much toward the protection of soldiers and sailors from the contamination of immoral women. That this work is appreciated is shown by the following letters:

On November 16, a letter from the lieutenant commander at the naval training station said:

"We are very grateful for the effective cooperation being rendered by the Committee of Fifteen in protecting our recruits from the pernicious influences of saloons and other vicious resorts, and will greatly appreciate receiving from you from time to time any information considered by you to be of value in the prosecution of the keepers of such resorts as well as in taking appropriate action with reference to the enlisted men involved."

On November 22, another letter acknowledging certain information which I had sent to the commandant, read:

"Replying to your letter of November 17th, the Commandant directs me to express his appreciation of the work which your committee is doing in regard to the betterment of conditions in Chicago. Such work is of a very distinct service to the Government, wherever it helps to protect the men of the Army and of the Navy.

"I am enclosing herewith the letters and pictures which were forwarded by you. The names of the men concerned have been noted and the proper disciplinary action will be taken."

On November 24, Chairman Fosdick wrote as follows:

"I was very glad to receive your report of November 13th, and have read it with interest, particularly that portion of it relating to Training Camps on page 10. I believe your organization is rendering efficient service to the Government in its efforts to keep Chicago as

clean as it is humanly possible. Keep up the good work."

On December 28, Walter Clarke, director of social hygiene instruction of the Commission, wrote:

"You know, of course, what we think here of the Committee of Fifteen's work and that the Commission on Training Camp Activities regards your work as of very great importance in keeping conditions about our camps and training stations in Illinois free from immoral and dangerous influences."

In addition to the Committee being in direct communication with the central Commission in Washington and the commandants of the nearby camps, it has been in close touch with the State Council of Defense, the Woman's Committee of that Council, and the Committee on War Time Activities of the Chicago Church Federation. Apparently the work of the Committee has been appreciated by these organizations.

On November 24, with the assistance of the Juvenile Protective Association, the Moody Institute, the Northwestern University, and the Young Men's Christian Association, I caused an investigation to be made covering the loop district fairly well, and the north, south, and west sides of the city partially, to ascertain the number of soldiers and sailors visiting saloons on leave of absence. The results were given in detail to your president and copies furnished to the State Council of Defense and to the chairman of the Commission on Training Camp Activities.

In addition to the cooperative relations, as above mentioned, the Committee has been coming into closer relation with the local federal authorities and has been cooperating recently to the end that seven cases are now held under bond before the federal court upon evidence furnished by our investigators. In these cases the offenders are held for violating the federal liquor law. The Committee asked federal aid, however, because they were keeping houses of prostitution. If they are punished as the law provides, it will aid much toward suppressing commercialized vice.

CHICAGO'S CONSCIENCE

It is gratifying to note the evidence of an awakened conscience concerning the vice situation. That conscience was startled into activity by the report of the Vice Commission in 1911. A close observer must be convinced that Chicago's conscience has not been stilled

since, but has gradually developed into an intensity and interest producing concrete results for moral betterment.

CONCLUSION

The foregoing facts should hearten all those who are working for a better city in which to live and rear their children.

With faith in the God of Righteousness, and with courage because of its accomplishments, the Committee of Fifteen should continue to lead the forces of virtue against those of vice and move on toward its goal, the ultimate suppression of commercialized prostitution in Chicago.

Respectfully submitted,

S. P. THRASHER,
Superintendent.

Pledge Card

I hereby agree to give to THE COMMITTEE OF FIF-

TEEN _____ Dollars,
to be used for current expenses in its work against Commer-
cialized Vice in Chicago during the fiscal year ending April
30, 1919.

I further agree to pay this pledge during the month of
_____, 191_____

Signed _____

Address _____

Date _____ 191_____

Pledge Card

I hereby agree to give to THE COMMITTEE OF FIF-

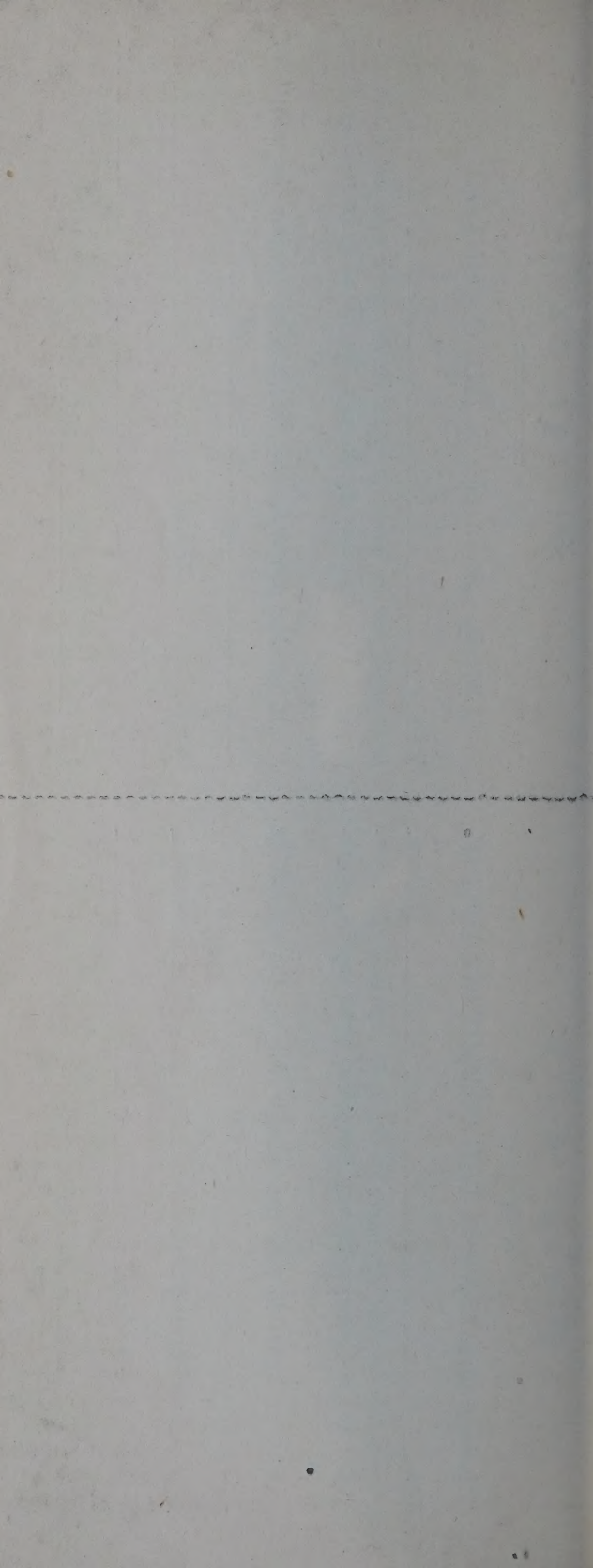
TEEN _____ Dollars,
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cialized Vice in Chicago during the fiscal year ending April
30, 1919.

I further agree to pay this pledge during the month of
_____, 191_____

Signed _____

Address _____

Date _____ 191_____



SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT OF THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE OF FIFTEEN SINCE MAY 1, 1918

At the regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Committee of Fifteen held November 12, 1918, the Superintendent submitted a report covering the last six months. He said in part:

INJUNCTION LAW

During the last six months, the Committee secured sufficient evidence to warrant the sending of eighty-eight (88) informal notices to that number of owners whose properties were being used for immoral purposes. Seventy-nine (79) of these were sent prior to September 12. Only nine (9) of the eighty-eight (88) were sent during the last six weeks. This shows the progress the Committee is making toward its ultimate goal, the suppression of commercialized vice.

To illustrate, if the showing for the last six weeks were maintained for one year, it would enable the Committee to proceed directly against only eighty (80) places, whereas its annual report, issued last May, shows that it proceeded against two hundred seventy (270) places during the preceding year, which is considerably more than three times eighty.

Only nine (9) formal notices have been served, and the only injunction applied for was granted. Two court decrees have been issued closing two houses for a year where temporary injunctions were obtained last November.

FEDERAL ASSISTANCE

Beginning about the first of June, vice began to show its ugly head in all three natural divisions of the city, particularly on the south side in and near the old sink of iniquity known as the south side vice district. In the three months following June 1, the Committee secured evidence sufficient to warrant the sending of thirty-seven (37) informal notices to owners of property in that district, three times the number that was sent in a like period prior to June 1. Street soliciting and vicious conditions in certain cabarets and saloons gave evidence of an influx of vice.

The Committee felt obliged to call upon the federal authorities to check the impending evil, and letters were written to the Secretaries of War and the Navy and the Commission on Training Camp Activities. Secretary Daniels immediately took the matter up with the commandant of the Great Lakes Naval Training Station.

Captain Moffett very promptly appointed a board of inquiry, which subsequently was supplemented by two army officers, Captain Robinson and Lieutenant Beckwith, and an investigation as to conditions was carried on for several weeks. I do not know what the report of that board was. I do know the results. As soon as it became known that a federal inquiry was on, the acting chief of police called in all captains and told them they would be suspended if vice was found in their districts. The federal and state authorities became unusually active. Captain Anderson, with authority from the war department, came here and interviewed federal, state and municipal officials, and made clear to them that the government demanded a close supervision of vice in order to protect soldiers and sailors from contamination by immoral women and the sale of intoxicating liquors.

The details concerning the changed conditions would be interesting, but suffice it to say that at no time during the last five years have our investigators found it so difficult to obtain evidence against houses of prostitution as now. Soldiers and sailors have been refused admittance to cabarets and saloons. The reputable hotel keepers have become organized and have a force of detectives employed for mutual protection. Street soliciting has been reduced to a minimum, and conditions generally were never better. All who have had a hand in bringing about this result are to be commended.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

The remarkable record of the Committee of Fifteen gives encouragement to look to the future with hope. No one should be deceived. Vice has not been eliminated from Chicago. It has been repressed to a degree. The causative elements have not changed. They have been forcibly curtailed, but they are very much alive and ready to spring into action at the first opportunity. Hence eternal vigilance is the price of a clean city. Our investigators are unable to find many cases of law-breaking. I try to impress upon them that the report of "no evidence" is most welcome so long as we are satisfied that the investigators are honest and industrious, as it is plain that if trained investigators are experiencing difficulty in finding houses of prostitution, the untrained are finding it even more difficult, and the benefits are apparent.

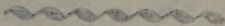
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Annual Report
of the
Committee of Fifteen
for the year ended
April 30, 1919

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Commerce Subscriptions Investigating
Committee for the regular period ending
November 30, 1919.**

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Committee of Fifteen

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

April 30, 1919

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DAVID R. FORGAN, Treasurer

EDWIN W. SIMS, Secretary

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SAMUEL P. THRASHER, Superintendent

SIMS, WELCH & GODMAN, Counsel

Offices: 807 OTIS BUILDING

10 S. La Salle St.

'Phone: FRANKLIN 4440

A VISION BY THE PRESIDENT

It is with pleasure and satisfaction that I express the appreciation of the Committee of Fifteen of your presence at another annual meeting. Through those of you who are delegates, we would thank the organizations you represent for their sympathy, co-operation and stimulating influence during the year that has passed. To our supporters, and, therefore, collaborators, we extend a deep, hearty and genuine welcome. You always have received our representatives with unfailing courtesy and kindness. Your quick response to our needs has been an encouragement and inspiration.

Since the armistice was signed in Europe, new thoughts are being forced upon our attention through conversation, discussion and the printed page. They are being summed up in these words:

“Reconstruction, a New Era.”

What is it we are to reconstruct and how? What is it we see as we stand upon the threshold of the new era, hesitating to enter, because out of the turmoil and strife of war we think we sense a loftier level of ideals that demands higher standards and better purposes in life? The answer to these questions lies in another:

“What are the lessons we have learned from the violence and bloodshed from which we have just emerged?”

We faced the problem of meeting the armies of Germany and Austria; we examined the young men of our nation; we gathered them out of the east, west, north and south; they were clothed, fed, trained and cared for that they might reach the highest physical and mental development. No effort was spared to bring out the best in them. They were sheltered from all that would debase, degrade or render inefficient. They had a task to perform, a gigantic task, for the life and honor of the nation was at stake. They must be fit.

Because of this have we gained a new understanding of the value of a man?

We faced the organization of all industry and the routine, drill and discipline of the

camp; the necessity of making mobile large bodies of men; the obvious need of concentrated authority and power.

Has the military and patriotic spirit brought us to a place of appreciation and respect for law and government, and a willingness to submit to both that is above and beyond our willingness prior to the war?

We have seen our nation rise in its might; make the impossible possible; change a campaign from retreat to advance; win victory and then take its seat at the peace conference respected and honored by all the world. A great achievement, truly.

But does it give us a new understanding of the value and place of our nation? Has it Americanized us?

As a people it is said, "We are not as we were four years ago or even two years ago; viewpoints have altered; standards have been advanced; more is expected of us." If this be so, if the change has come and is to be lasting, we must see it not only in the nation but permeating the state, the county and township, the city and hamlet, the individual. For we well know it is only as the individual is strong and possessed of high ideals that the city or nation can be what we expect it to be.

In the coming new era will a man be worth more to the nation as a soldier than as a citizen? Will he in the camp or on the field of battle be of greater value than in the home or the commercial life of our country? If it is essential that he should be protected from the woman of the street and the brothel while wearing the khaki, shall we provide no barrier to commercialized vice, immorality and resulting disease in civilian life?

These are searching questions requiring serious thought and demanding honest answers.

If we are a changed people, if our standards have been raised, if we have passed out of the old into the new, does not the work of the Committee of Fifteen awaken a new interest? Does it not arouse a new enthusiasm as we seek to remove temptation from our boys and girls, to keep our men fit for the daily task and to encourage our municipality to strive for higher ideals?

We believe it does and that you and we more loyally and unitedly than ever will do what we can to minimize the evil against which we strive.

**REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT
OF THE COMMITTEE OF FIFTEEN
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
APRIL 30, 1919.**

*Mr. President, Officers, Directors, Members and
Friends of the Committee of Fifteen:*

The Injunction and Abatement Law has been the Committee's most effective weapon during the year just closed. The Committee sent one hundred thirty-seven informal notices to owners on evidence of immoral practices in their property that constituted a public nuisance. One hundred twenty-three have heeded the first notice making further action unnecessary. Fourteen owners were defiant or careless, in most cases I think careless, and we sent the formal notice. This was so effective that only one temporary injunction was secured. Recently each of the one hundred thirty-seven places has been checked off with the following results: Eighty-one tenants have moved; in fifty-five places conditions have been so changed it was impossible to obtain incriminating evidence; in one place only was evidence of any kind obtained, and that insufficient to warrant action without corroboration. I am not assuming that none of the one hundred thirty-six places is still being used in violation of law, but I do state that the Committee's action has had such an influence as to make it impossible so far for our investigators to procure evidence sufficient to warrant further action against any one of them.

Three permanent injunctions were secured against properties where the temporary injunctions were granted before the beginning of the fiscal year. There are pending in court two bills in equity for permanent injunctions. One case is before the Supreme Court on appeal. There are also two contempt cases pending.

The increasing effectiveness of the injunction method is indicated by the following facts:

During the year ended April 30, 1917, thirty per cent of those receiving the informal notice instituted correctional measures without further action by the committee. During the year ended April 30, 1918, seventy-six per cent heeded the

warning. During the year covered by this report ninety per cent promptly responded.

FEDERAL ASSISTANCE

The Federal authorities responded to two appeals from our Committee for assistance to check the increasing tide of vice as it appeared in May and September.

In the first instance conditions had become intolerable in Burnham. It was reported that nearly a dozen places there had taken on a semblance of the old south side segregated district and were becoming a menace to soldiers and sailors. Your superintendent made a trip to Washington with this Burnham situation chief among the objects of his visit. On returning to Chicago he went with Lieut. Edwin R. Beckwith, representing the Army, and Chief Master at Arms Oliver A. Pollard, representing the Navy, to seek the co-operation of the States Attorney. Mr. Hoyne served notice on the keepers that law breaking must cease at once. Thereupon more than two hundred immoral women left Burnham. For a time conditions there remained much better. Recently they have become flagrant. Through the Sheriff's office raids have been made. Injunctions have issued through the Attorney General's office and many of the places have been closed by order of the Court, it is hoped permanently. In this connection I wish to say that it is gratifying indeed to find Sheriff Peters willing to co-operate with the Committee to the limit of his ability. He is doing much on his own motion to eliminate vice and crime in the outlying districts and has offered to co-operate with the Committee within the city limits wherever practicable.

On May 25, 1918, Major Funkhouser, Second Deputy of Police, was suspended by Acting Chief of Police John H. Alcock and taken before the Civil Service Commission of the City of Chicago on a general charge of inefficiency. The Second Deputy was represented by Mr. John S. Miller and Mr. Vincent D. Wyman as leading counsel, who volunteered their services without compensation. Associated with them were the Messrs. Philip McKenna, Joseph F. Grossman and John H. Lyle. It was and is the opinion of every one of these imminent lawyers, as well as of several members of the Committee of Fifteen who attended the trial, that evidence upon which to base a single one of the allegations against the Second Deputy was lacking. Members and employes of our Committee testified in behalf of the Major. The upshot of the case was the removal of the Second Deputy on July 31. His counsel were not even permitted to make the

usual arguments. The rulings of the Chairman of the Civil Service Commission on the admission of evidence were considered remarkable; and, after it was all over, this Chairman himself, Mr. Charles E. Frazier, was appointed by Acting Chief Alcock to fill the vacancy caused by the discharge of Major Funkhouser.

Major Funkhouser's Counsel applied to the courts for a writ of certiorari for a review of the case. The court granted the writ. It is hoped that the Major and his aids will be reinstated.

Immediately following the suspension of the Major, apparently anticipating the result of his trial, vice began to show its head in all divisions of the city, most flagrantly on the south side in and near the old segregated district. In three months our Committee secured sufficient evidence to warrant sending thirty-seven informal notices to owners of property in that district. This is three times as many as were sent in a like period prior to May 25.

Street soliciting and conditions in certain cabarets and saloons gave evidence of an alarming influx of vice. On August 26 I informed the Morals Inspector of conditions, citing specific cases. I told him I was preparing a report to Washington supporting an appeal for Federal assistance, if something was not done to correct conditions. On the following Saturday night, August 31, the reports of our investigators showed the situation to be even worse than formerly. The Tribune sent out several reporters who corroborated the evidence of our investigators.

On Tuesday, September 3, with the approval of the Advisory Board, I wrote letters to the Secretaries of War and Navy regarding the vice situation as affecting soldiers and sailors visiting Chicago on leave from the camps and invited Federal aid, pledging the assistance of our Committee.

Secretary Daniels responded as follows:

"My dear Mr. Thrasher:

"I thank you very much for your letter of September 3 and for the clippings from the Chicago Tribune. I am taking this matter up and shall be glad to co-operate with you and the authorities, and will direct the Commandant of the Naval Training Station at Chicago to do likewise.

"I am also referring the matter to the Commission on Training Camp Activities."

The Juvenile Protective Association also appealed to Secretary Daniels.

Captain Moffett of the Great Lakes Training Station very promptly appointed a board of inquiry which was supplemented by two army officers, Captain Robinson and Lieutenant Beckwith. An investigation of conditions was carried on for several weeks. As soon as it became known that a Federal inquiry was on, the Acting Chief of Police called in all his captains and told them they would be suspended if vice was found in their districts. The Federal authorities became unusually active. Captain Anderson, with authority from the War Department, came here and interviewed Federal, State and Municipal officials. He made clear to them that the government demanded a close supervision of vice to protect soldiers and sailors from contamination by immoral women and from intoxicating liquors.

At no time during the last six years have our investigators found it so difficult to obtain evidence against houses of prostitution as during the two months following our appeal to the Federal authorities.

TELEPHONE COMPANY ASSISTS

About three years ago the officers of the Committee had a conference with the officials of the Chicago Telephone Company regarding the legal and moral responsibility of that corporation in contracting for and maintaining telephones in houses of prostitution. We obtained from the Telephone Company the promise that it would remove telephones upon the request of the Chief of Police and would refuse to install telephones in places where satisfactory evidence was forthcoming to prove that they were houses of prostitution.

Chief Gleason and Chief Schuettler made many applications for removal of telephones based on sufficient evidence. I remember Chief Gleason showing me a list of twenty-five places from which telephones had been removed at his request.

LACK OF POLICE CO-OPERATION

It is regrettable that an honest effort on the part of the Committee to check the influx of vice, so noticeable as to cause considerable newspaper publicity, aroused more or less hostility toward the Committee on the part of certain high police officials. When our attitude became known the co-operation which we had hitherto experienced

with the police department ceased. The Committee has had practically no co-operation from the department during the entire year. But in the year before, viz., the year ended April 30, 1918, the Committee enjoyed amicable relations with the police. Chief Schuettler, Captain Westbrook and Major Funkhouser were pleased to assist and to receive assistance. During that year the evidence in one hundred twenty-seven places, out of two hundred seventy which the Committee proceeded against, was wholly or in part obtained by the police. During the summer months of 1917, Chief Schuettler requested the Committee of Fifteen to serve notices under the Injunction Law upon forty-three owners, and offered to furnish the evidence, if the cases came to trial. No such requests have come from the police department during the last year. In only six of one hundred thirty-seven cases dealt with by the Committee was the evidence in any degree based upon police initiative.

PANDERING

The Committee has rendered assistance in twelve cases of pandering; fines amounting to \$3,750.00 were imposed, making an average of \$312.50 a person. The total term of imprisonment of nine persons was five years and nine months, which averages seven months and twenty days each.

CANARY COTTAGE

The Canary Cottage at 3841-45 Cottage Grove Avenue was controlled by Ed Weiss and his brother, Louis Weiss, two of the most notorious vice promoters in Chicago. Unable to secure a liquor license themselves because of their record as women traffickers, they set up three different dummies to procure one. We were successful in opposing them. The place remained vacant for more than a year. Then, on condition that the Weisses be eliminated and have no connection with the business, a license was granted to one Suranyi. After several hearings we finally obtained a promise from the Corporation Counsel's office that the license would be revoked, if the Weisses had anything to do with the place. We proved conclusively that the Weisses controlled the place all of the time, but instead of revoking the license the Corporation Counsel recommended that a new lease of life be given upon a reassurance that the Weisses had been eliminated financially and otherwise. In spite of a vigorous protest from our Committee the license was reissued, still with the understanding that if we proved connection of the Weisses with the resort, it would be revoked.

We procured ample evidence that the place was not only being managed by Weiss, but that the law was being openly and defiantly violated and that the place was a resort for prostitutes. The reissuance of the license was refused and mandamus proceedings were instituted to compel the Mayor to issue it. Captain Robinson, who represented the War Department through the Commission on Training Camp Activities, became interested in this case. Just previous to the last hearing he took to Assistant Corporation Counsel Breen a statement from our Committee giving a list of witnesses with a brief synopsis of what each would testify to. Thereupon, the mandamus proceeding was dismissed without a hearing. The Canary Cottage has been closed for several months, much to the relief and improvement of the neighborhood.

LOOP HOTELS

One of the perplexing problems the Committee has to deal with is the conduct of some of the loop hotels which maintain an air of respectability but furnish opportunities for law-breaking and immorality. Such a hotel was complained of last winter. Our investigators corroborated the information. We notified the owners who were loath to believe the reports, but, upon being convinced of their reliability, they took immediate action to correct conditions. Within forty-eight hours from the time our report was received four employes were discharged and seven women left the place. The owners are employing detectives to keep the place under surveillance. This is one of the many places where conditions were corrected without court procedure.

THE VESTIBULE

The most desperately fought case we have had is the one now pending against the Vestibule at 22nd and State Streets, kept by Benjamin Zellern, or "Polock Ben." The place has a bad reputation. It was one of the resorts of note in the palmy days of the south side vice district. We proceeded against the Vestibule by obtaining a temporary injunction and filing a bill in equity. In addition to this case we thought best to bring also a criminal case. The favorite method of defense used by the underworld was resorted to, viz: a change of venue was asked and granted upon an affidavit filed by one Harry Baker objecting to eighteen judges on the ground that Zellern could not have a fair trial before any one of them. The case was finally assigned to a judge against whom the defendant made no ob-

jection. He was acquitted in the criminal case. His counsel has been making a strong plea that this acquittal of Zellern should bar further procedure against the property under the Injunction and Abatement Law. Mr. Godman, of our counsel, took a strong stand against that contention. The case is pending. We also sought and obtained a rule for contempt for violating the injunction. This with the other case is still undecided.

STREET SOLICITING

Much could be said about the fluctuation and gradual diminution of street soliciting in Chicago. Six years ago, hundreds, if not thousands of professional prostitutes were plying their trade in all parts of the city. Today it is possible for one to go from South Chicago to Evanston and not be met by a woman who by her looks or acts would reveal her identity as a prostitute. There are times when they become bold and solicit more or less openly, but nowhere in Chicago are dissolute women continually flaunting vice in the face of decency.

THE COMMITTEE'S WIDE INFLUENCE

Appeals for advice concerning organized effort looking to the suppression of vice have come to us from a majority of the states and from eight foreign countries. In response to these appeals we have sent our annual report and answered specific questions whenever possible. We have assisted in many instances to form organizations based upon the plan and policy adopted by the Committee of Fifteen.

OWNERS AND AGENTS CO-OPERATE

It is gratifying to be able to report continued co-operation with owners and agents. When our policy of notifying owners and agents under the Injunction Law, that their property was being used for immoral purposes, was first adopted it made many of them see red, and we were met with violent protestations and opposition. Now, it is seldom that an owner or an agent protests against the information.

VENEREAL DISEASE

The limited space to which I must confine this report will not permit me to say what ought to be said about the woeful consequences of venereal diseases. Their ravages upon public health, resulting directly or indirectly from professional prostitution, should give just cause for alarm. If for no other reason than that of public

health, prostitution should be suppressed. The Committee of Fifteen, while primarily not active in fighting diseases, is co-operating with organizations which make that worthy work their chief business.

EMPLOYEES

Mr. Langdon, who served the Committee faithfully for four years as assistant superintendent, found it to his advantage to take another position. His place has been filled by C. C. DeJong, who is measuring up to the requirements with satisfaction. The entire force is working in harmony and manifesting a spirit of loyalty which bespeaks success; and our thanks are due them.

CONCLUSION

Vice has not been eliminated from Chicago. It has been repressed to a remarkable degree. But there never was a time when increased activity and renewed vigilance were more needed than right now, when our boys from the Army and Navy are returning in such great numbers. We are all proud of what the Federal Government has done toward minimizing the ravages of venereal diseases among men in the service. It would be a crime against the government, against society and against the boys who are returning to home and civil life to leave anything undone that can be done to protect them from things worse than poison gas, machine gun bullets and shrapnel.

In what I have said about the police I want to be understood as not condemning the whole department. I always have maintained that from eighty to ninety per cent of the men on the force were honest and would do good work, if the pace were set for them by their superiors, and if they were not interfered with by political hucksters. It is a downright shame that the honest men on the force have to bear the odium of dishonor forced upon them by a small minority. The policeman's uniform and badge should inspire pride and loyalty instead of being viewed with suspicion as they often are.

When Chief Garrity assumed the duties of his office the force was badly disorganized and demoralized. He has the most difficult official position in Chicago. He needs all of the assistance that can be given him by good citizens as he endeavors to get control of the police department and tries to make it function toward reducing vice and crime.

I wish to express appreciation of the support

given me by Mr. Crowell, Mr. Rosenwald and Mr. Sims of the Advisory Board, and by all the Directors. It is only because of their wise counsel and service in and out of season that your Superintendent is able to report so full and fruitful a year.

Respectfully submitted,

S. P. THRASHER,

Superintendent.

VALUE OF ORGANIZED CIVILIAN AID TO THE ARMY

ADDRESS OF GEN. JAMES A. RYAN AT
THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COM-
MITTEE OF FIFTEEN, MAY 16. 1919.

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen:

The young man who enlists in the U. S. Service is passed from the recruiting depot to a company of infantry, a troop of cavalry or a battery of artillery. His instructor, his guardian, the officer immediately responsible for this young man's conduct is his captain. More remotely responsible is his regimental commander who is after commander of the military post. This captain's first idea is to make of that man an efficient soldier, a man who will respond to his commands on the field of battle, the goal towards which all military training strives. The captain trains this soldier to make of him the highest type of physical man. He prescribes his baths, he inspects his clothing, his bedding, his meals, the ventilation of his quarters, he even insists that barbers who give him a shave, sterilize razors, combs, cups and brushes to guard him from any contamination that might injure his health. The soldier who is useful to that captain is the one who is physically healthy and strong; the invalid soldier, the wounded soldier is a detriment to any army for he is a non-effective and he requires one or more non-effectives to care for him. The question of success in war depends on many factors, not the least is transportation and every pound needed to support non-effectives is a pound taken from the support of a sound soldier, the only kind that win battles. To more securely preserve this fighting machine, while the captain has him in his company training him for the supreme test, every possible source of infection is closed. He is vaccinated for small pox, typhoid fever, paratyphoid and pneumonia, every precaution is taken to preserve his health and to make him a sound healthy man. As long as that man remains in the garrison which is controlled by his officers, he is reasonably safe; but let him go on leave even for a day, he passes from the protecting care of his officers and goes to the city where that protecting care cannot follow him.

A soldier must have periods of relaxation as well as other men and he welcomes a pass that enables him to visit the nearest town or city and throw off the restraint that holds him to strict military discipline. He visits the city for a day or perhaps for an evening, a city where he is unknown, even acquaintances he has none and his only refuge are places of amusement, the moving picture show, the dance hall, the saloon, the gambling den. Men in the flower of youth have implanted in their breasts desires and passions, the strongest of the human heart. The soldiers, herded together in companies with none but male companionship, have few opportunities to meet young women, such as they knew in their own homes. They crave women's society the same as other men, it is natural for them to desire to meet the opposite sex, to enjoy their company, to satisfy the longing they feel, for every young man and every young woman, whether they admit it or not, look into the eyes of everyone they meet to see if they can read the answering look that will tell them they have met the one person with whom they should be joined. Where can the soldier find the society of young women when they visit a city? They have no means provided and hence they make their acquaintances only where it is possible, on the street. The soldier is limited to one class of women, the class easiest to meet because they gain their living by meeting strange men.

THE CITY—ITS LURE

In the city certain districts which have been given over to vice are sure to attract the soldier. He is away from home, the restraining influence of parents is removed and the guiding hand of his officers is temporarily removed. The way is made easy for him to meet these women, it may be first in a dance hall or in a saloon or cafe. Once he finds the way, he is lost to better influence or to better women, he feels the moral drop of his associations and he no longer seeks the society of pure women where he would feel awkward, he avoids them and soon he associates only with the fallen ones.

PROTECTION FOR HIM AND FOR YOUNG MEN IN CIVIL LIFE

What protection can be expected for the soldier in the city when no protection is thrown out to safeguard his city brother. It is true the young man of the city has home influences to make him shun dissolute women but the lure is there, open and inviting, to overcome his strong resolutions, to appeal to his weakness, the way

to destruction is made easy. As long as the city tolerates such conditions, the army commanders in nearby posts are powerless to protect their soldiers from its devastating influence, the officers' power of protection terminates as soon as the soldier leaves the reservation, the evils that exist in the city can be reached only by the constituted city authorities.

LAXITY OF MUNICIPAL AUTHORITIES

In the past, municipal governments have not given their devoted attention to the protection of their young men and young women, the most priceless crop that yearly comes to maturity. There have been efforts at times, often along wrong lines which did little good and the old evil remained. In addition to municipal assistance and supporting it, there must be a strong public determination to bring about results. The army cannot of itself procure this, the municipal authorities cannot effect it alone, it requires an enlightened public sentiment to resolve that this active distributor of disease shall be eradicated, that our young men and young women shall be protected, and to see that this resolution is carried into effect. The army has organized protection within its jurisdiction, but to complete the safeguards for the soldier we must have organized protection outside the army post, the commanding officer of a post cannot reach a single house of prostitution, no matter how many of his men were ruined, if not assisted by organized civilians of the community.

Why this class of crime, more deadly than the assassin and more ruinous in results than any known plague, is allowed to flourish in any community astonishes us when we stop to contemplate its ravages. Young men do not stop to count the results, many have thought it manly to indulge in illicit love and many are not wholly to blame, for they have never been taught its dangers.

There seems to exist in our country among parents an aversion to speak plainly to their children of the worst danger that will assail them and many young men grow up totally unprepared to protect themselves from the danger on every hand. I have in mind now the case of one Mexican woman in a city of Texas during this war who contaminated seventeen young men before she was discovered and arrested. We who would not for a moment allow the best citizen to be at large, if afflicted with small pox, give little heed to the open activities of a woman who sows seeds of death, an awful death, to our strong young American soldiers.

Did you ever stop to think how long it requires to bring up a boy from birth to manhood, the years of care and labor, the love and affection bestowed upon that son. What sacrifices made that he might take his place as a man at twenty-one. Is there any protection that father or mother would not give to conserve his safety. No, and yet in their own city, near their own home, flourishes the deadliest enemy that youth could encounter. They may soothe their consciences by thinking that their son could not fall; but what about their neighbor's son? Is he not as precious to his parents as their own son is to them? Here is where it reaches everyone. We are in duty bound to save our neighbor's son from danger just as much as if he were our very own and if this neighbor's son is a soldier away from his father's house, away from the protection thrown around him by his officers, then should the city replace both and give him the protection his parents would bestow.

The work of protecting our young soldiers in cities received powerful assistance during this war from the Fosdick Committee and officers from the Medical Department of the Army worked in conjunction with them. This was not sufficient, nor can it ever be successful without the helping hand of the city itself. The problem is most difficult of solution, unless self-respecting citizens take measures themselves to bring about results. The army officer is helpless outside his garrison. He can keep that clean, but the city can be made safe only by its organized citizens. Commercialized vice is organized, its organizers are defended by able legal talent and they will not cease until they are confronted by an organized resistance, greater in force than they possess. It does little good to pass laws or ordinances, unless they are enforced. It is the execution of the laws that bring action.

Could you know the number of days lost in armies by sickness from venereal disease it would astonish you. Could you know the human wrecks it has caused among our young men you would be astounded.

One of the great benefits to be derived by our young men from universal military training is the safety assured them from the instruction on this subject to be given during their intensive training. Could we take every young man of eighteen, on May 1st, to the training camp and

keep him in summer camp until September 30th, we would turn out a soldier as fit as any who went to Europe, trained at a time in life when he has least responsibilities and instructed not only in military tactics, but in hygiene, in clean thinking and clean living, that would safeguard him through life. Our youth do not know the danger and hence they perish in it. The only way to save them is to give them knowledge of the danger to eradicate these dens of vice, to incarcerate those who would establish them.

Every one who has learned of the efforts of this committee will applaud them for their work and bid them, in God's name, to continue. You are engaged in a contest for freedom, freedom of our young soldier, freedom from disease and death, freedom from the worst influences that could possibly surround them and your victories will reach far into the future. You are abolishing an evil that has been the dread of every commanding officer, the more dreaded because of his helplessness to combat it and without your organized aid to civil authorities, commercialized vice will not die.

In Memoriam

It is with sorrow and pride that we record our share in the city-wide tribute to the memory of Mr. A. Stamford White. We are sorrowful because we shall never again have the joy and benefit of association with him in our peculiarly difficult work. We are proud that, with all the other demands upon him, he apportioned some of his precious time to us.

Mr. White came to Chicago from England in 1887. Perhaps, in part, because he was a Briton, he had a world-wide vision. In his mind there was room for the far-reaching enterprises that gave him business eminence. In his heart there was room for the cares and tragedies of those less gifted and less favorably situated.

To business and to civics and benevolence he brought the same gifts of poise, courage, optimism, loyalty, sensible advice and almost unyielding insistence upon doing what he believed to be the right thing rather than what was easy. It is recorded of him that his career on the Chicago Board of Trade, culminating in the service to the National Food Administration that caused his death, is free from censure for any transaction. He was respected among his business associates. His reputation was enviable, indeed.

For five and one-half years Mr. White was connected with the Committee of Fifteen. At the time of his death he was a director, a member of the Advisory Board, and Second Vice President. During his association with us Mr. White was a liberal giver of time and money to our work. On many occasions he was the inspiration and guide of our officers, directors and executive employees.

We desire to add this our word to the tributes of many other organizations that are pressing in gently upon his family as eloquent testimonials of the esteem in which Mr. White was held by those associated with him. We express to Mrs. White and the son and daughter our sympathy in their great bereavement. In the hope the thought may be comforting to the family we add that while they mourn the loss of a husband and father, many individuals, from newsboys and bootblacks to men in high places, are mourning the loss of a friend.

The foregoing was adopted by the Committee of Fifteen, November 12, 1918, ordered spread upon the records, engrossed, and sent to the family.

Pledge Card

I hereby agree to give to THE COMMITTEE OF FIF-

TEEN _____ Dollars,
to be used for current expenses in its work against Commer-
cialized Vice in Chicago during the fiscal year ending April
30, 1920.

I further agree to pay this pledge during the month of
_____, 19____

Signed _____

Address _____

Date _____ 19____

Pledge Card

I hereby agree to give to THE COMMITTEE OF FIF-

TEEN _____ Dollars,
to be used for current expenses in its work against Commer-
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30, 1920.

I further agree to pay this pledge during the month of
_____, 19____

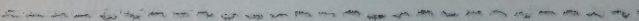
Signed _____

Address _____

Date _____ 19____

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If, as a result of the war, we are a changed people, if our standards have been raised, if we have passed out of the old into the new, does not the work of the Committee of Fifteen awaken a new interest? Does it not arouse a new enthusiasm as we seek to remove temptation from our boys and girls, to keep our men fit for the daily task and to encourage our municipality to strive for higher ideals? We believe it does and that you and we more loyally and unitedly than ever will do what we can to minimize the evil against which we strive.

Henry P. Crowell

During the year ended April 30, 1917, *thirty* per cent of those receiving the informal notice that their property was being used for immoral purposes instituted correctional measures without further action by the Committee of Fifteen. During the year ended April 30, 1918, SEVENTY-SIX per cent heeded the warning. During the year ended April 30, 1919, NINETY per cent promptly responded.

Samuel P. Thrasher

You are engaged in a contest for freedom, freedom for our young soldier, freedom from disease and death, freedom from the worst influence that could possibly surround them and your victories will reach far into the future. You are abolishing an evil that has been the dread of every commanding officer, the more dreaded because of his helplessness to combat it. Without your organized aid to civil authorities, commercialized vice will not die.

Gen. James A. Ryan

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JUL 16 1920

Annual Report

of the

Committee of Fifteen

for the year ended
April 30, 1920

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**Endorsed by the Chicago Association of
Commerce Subscriptions Investigating
Committee for the regular period ending
November 30, 1920.**

Contributions Deductible from Income Tax

Contributions to the Committee of Fifteen are deductible from incomes of Individuals in computing their income tax.

A letter from the Commissioner of Internal Revenue at Washington reads:

"The Committee of Fifteen is exempt from income tax under Subdivision 6 of Section 231 of the Revenue Act of 1918, and contributions made to it by individuals are deductible from gross income in accordance with the provisions of Subdivision 11 of Section 214 (a) of same Act."

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Committee of Fifteen

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DAVID R. FORGAN.....Treasurer
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SIMS, WELCH & GODMAN, Counsel

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10 S. La Salle St.

'Phone: FRANKLIN 4440

CHICAGO NEEDS THE COMMITTEE OF FIFTEEN.

By President H. P. Crowell

The days in which we live are so crowded with activities and diversions that we are apt to forget the origin of things; so I want to remind you that the Committee of Fifteen belongs to the citizens of Chicago, belongs to each one of you individually. The men and women constituting its Board of Directors are your representatives and become the channel through which you work to prevent the re-establishment of a red light district in our city. The Committee has no power except as you give it power by assisting in the creation of a public sentiment against that which is vile and degrading and that makes us ashamed. The moment that a protest against this evil fails to rise in the human breast, that moment the Committee dies, for its usefulness is ended and its power and life are gone.

Official Neglect of Duty.

But why do we need a Committee of Fifteen when we have laws to protect us, specific laws making it a crime to exploit women and to use property for immoral purposes and men elected to public office for the express purpose of enforcing these very laws? The answer is that men fail in their duty, fail because of ignorance, fail because they do not find a public sentiment that compels recognition, fail because of political influence and pressure which keeps them from having the courage of their convictions.

On July 1, 1915, the Injunction and Abatement Act became a law in the State of Illinois. From that day to this, five long years, no public official or employee in the City of Chicago has applied for an injunction under this law. Had it not been for the Committee of Fifteen, it would have lain dormant on the statute books; but we have taken it and made it a powerful weapon in the suppression of vice, and in so doing have filled many a law-breaker with fear and despair.

Prostitution and the Police.

Again comes the question—Why do we need the Committee of Fifteen when we have a police department, created to maintain order and enforce law? We like to think of this department

as free and untrammelled, actuated by a singleness of purpose, and that purpose to protect the life, property and morals of every individual living within its borders without fear or favor. If the work of the department measured up to this standard or to our ideal, we would not find commercialized vice springing up or flourishing in different parts of our city. Does not the department know what is going on? Yes, I believe the patrolman knows, the sergeant knows, the lieutenant knows, the captain knows. A woman may act secretly or clandestinely, but she cannot ply her trade commercially, neither can a house be opened for immoral purposes for more than a few days without creating suspicion that soon leads to knowledge. Knowledge may be denied, as it sometimes is, because the department has not legal proof; but why should it not have such proof?

Committee Gets Evidence.

Not long ago complaints were registered in the department by neighbors and men doing business nearby about a property located at State and 22nd streets. Six policemen who had been on the force from nine to sixteen years were assigned to watch the place, the people who went in and out, and their conduct while within. On the witness stand they testified that they wore plain clothes, that they visited all parts of the building, sometimes in the day, at other times in the night. They looked into every room, but were unable to discover anything that was improper or immoral. In their opinion the character of the place was good and the people in charge were carrying on a legitimate business. During the same period that these six policemen assigned to this specific duty were finding nothing wrong about the premises or business conducted there, the investigators of the Committee of Fifteen obtained such convincing evidence of immorality that Judge Zeman of the Chancery Court, under the Injunction and Abatement Act, issued a permanent injunction against the place. Should it not be easier for the police department, profiting by many years of experience and having trained and skilled men, to secure evidence that will stand in court than for the Committee of Fifteen to do so? Were these six policemen blind or devoid of reason and logic—were they incompetent or corrupt, or was their assignment to this particular duty simply a ruse or pretense to show action in response to the complaints made; or were the instructions given in such a way that the men knew that they were not to see or hear or find anything of a questionable nature? Let me leave these questions with you, that you may give the answer that best expresses

the conduct and testimony of these officers. It seems to be true that certain men and certain interests are immune from interference or attack and the only fair inference that can be drawn is that they are overlooked because they are good scouts or good politicians, and, therefore, useful to other politicians.

When the morale of the department is weakened by outside influences permeating it and demanding recognition, laxity is bound to ensue and what would otherwise be a splendid and efficient organization becomes weak and demoralized. On the surface, on paper, or in figures the department may look well; but, underneath, it lacks that spirit, that honesty of purpose that develops courage, high-mindedness and lofty standards that we look for in the guardians of public safety.

The "Underworld."

For a moment I would have you consider the "underworld" as a reason for the necessity of a strong, sensitive public opinion and the compelling need for the existence of the Committee of Fifteen.

This "underworld" is not one, wide in area, or containing a large percentage of the population, but it is dangerous, extremely dangerous, for it contains a restless, seething mass of humanity, diseased in mind and body, that is not only immoral but unmoral. There you find selfishness, covetousness, avarice, jealousy and hatred carried to the extreme. There is little or no good in the individuals to which you can appeal. The incentives and ideals that keep the great mass of men normal are unknown to them and life is of little value when it interferes with their ambition or greed. Unmoved and uncontrolled by principle, the great underlying argument commonly used is that money will buy anything. They see it buying virtue, human bodies, immunity for what they call their business, and immunity from punishment. Some of the shrewder and more intelligent men enter into politics and undertake to sway the vote of their followers that they may barter it for exemptions and privileges they could not otherwise enjoy. As a smouldering fire can be easily fanned by the wind into a flame and then into a conflagration, so the desires of these people rush to take advantage of any relaxation of vigilance or the lessening of repressive measures.

Committee in the Way.

The statement is frequently made by them that—we know how to deal with the politician; we know how to handle the police; but we do not know how to stop the aggressive tactics of the

Committee of Fifteen. They say—we have tried to undermine the Committee itself; we have threatened, sought to intimidate and then corrupt the Superintendent, but have failed in every plan. If this man and this committee were only out of the way we would again come into our own and make money.

Standing on the firing line between decency and indecency, our Committee, headed by its Superintendent, has struck blow after blow at all that is immoral and has taken the major profit out of commercial vice and driven it into secrecy and darkness.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT.

To the Directors, Members and Friends of the Committee of Fifteen:

The Injunction and Abatement Law still proves to be the Committee's most effective weapon. Operating under this law, the Committee has reduced its procedure to something of a science. An accurate report is made by every investigator, designating the number and location of every place visited. When evidence is obtained for the first time the place is card indexed, and, as soon as practicable thereafter, the investigators seek to obtain corroborative evidence. If it is obtained, we send notice to the owner. If action is not taken by the owner and we can obtain further evidence, then we proceed under the Injunction Law to serve the legal notice. If that is not effective, we apply for an injunction.

During the year covered by this report, our investigators have visited six thousand three hundred places for the purpose of investigation. They have obtained evidence in six hundred and fifteen instances and corroborated sufficiently to warrant sending the informal notice in two hundred and four of them, which is an average of seventeen per month, and the serving of thirty-seven formal notices. We were unable to obtain corroborative evidence in four hundred and eleven places where positive evidence had been previously secured.

For your information, I think it well to say that since the Injunction Law went into effect in July, 1915, the Committee has written nine hundred and eighty-eight informal notices. Of that number eight hundred and seven owners or agents have taken such action as to make it unnecessary to proceed further under the law. One hundred and eighty-one of them have been careless or defiant (I think in most cases it was carelessness rather than defiance) and the second, or formal, notice under the Injunction Law has been necessary. This law has proved so effective that only fifteen injunctions have been applied for and secured. In all but two of them the injunction has accomplished all that could be desired. These two have recently defied the law and require further attention by the Committee.

In our last annual report I stated that two cases for permanent injunction were pending. After exhaustive trials both injunctions were granted and are now in effect.

During the early summer, last year, vice was under reasonable control, but a demoralized condition developed in the police department, of which vice promoters seemed to take advantage, and in September vice and crime had greatly increased. Then the attorney-general, the state's attorney and the chief of police all became active. It appeared that Chief Garrity was getting a better control of the situation and there was something of an improvement in conditions until March, prior to the recent April election, when there were indications that vice and crime were on the increase. The reports of our investigators, and complaints which come in to the office, indicate clearly that vice promoters are active and hopeful, and it will require renewed energy and increased activity on the part of the Committee of Fifteen and other agencies to check the increase of crime.

If corrupt politics would keep its hands off the police department, and Chief Garrity were given a fair chance, I believe the department would function effectively. It is gratifying to report that the opposition of the police toward the Committee of Fifteen, which has been in evidence once or twice, is disappearing, and we are today maintaining reasonably amicable relations with the department.

Co-operation of Owners.

I am pleased to report that we are having amicable and effective co-operation with owners and agents of property which we find to be used for immoral purposes. During the year covered by this report, 86 per cent of owners and agents notified of the illegal use of their property have acted promptly to correct the conditions of which we complained. Subsequent investigations have revealed the fact that the places are vacant, or occupied by new tenants, or that it is impossible to secure evidence of immorality.

From the scores of letters in our files bearing on this matter, I submit the following:

Mr. Fairweather, representing the University of Chicago, writes:

"I have taken up the matter mentioned in your letter of June 10, with the tenant concerned, who promises that the matters complained of will promptly cease and that he will personally see that they do."

Wm. A. Bond & Co. write:

"We have your inquiry of recent date as to our opinion of the results of the work of the Committee of Fifteen in connection with the real estate agents.

"For our part, we wish to say that the work of the Committee has been of great assistance to us in getting rid of undesirable tenants, and we believe that a continuance of the policy of frank co-operation between your Committee and the real estate men generally will be of great benefit to the real estate interests. Your organization is able to do work along this line which the real estate agents cannot do and of which they are ready to take advantage if they have the opportunity. We believe that the law as it now exists is a fair one and goes a long way to remedy conditions which we were not able to reach before."

Mr. Granert of Granert & Rothschild says:

"I have your letter of the 8th inst., and have advised my real estate agent to have premises at vacated at once, as I prefer to have it empty than to have tenants of that type."

A letter from the First Trust and Savings Bank reads:

"We are pleased to report that in compliance with your recent order we have ousted tenant from the premises at Thirty-fourth St., and we thank you for your co-operation in assisting us to get rid of so undesirable a tenant.

"Thanking you, and assuring you that we are anxious to comply with the Committee's recommendations at all times, we beg to remain."

Messrs. Baird & Warner write, saying:

"We are familiar with the work of the Committee of Fifteen and we believe that agents and owners will find it to their mutual advantage to co-operate with them in every way possible. The Committee maintains a very complete filing system and we have obtained valuable information by referring to it. Their superintendent, when called upon, has been very helpful with suggestions and assistance."

L. M. Smith & Bro. write as follows:

"Should there be any lingering doubt in the minds of owners or agents as to the effect of your work as it relates to residence districts, it might be of benefit to them to know that your institution has been of the greatest assistance to us in contending with a condition in this vicinity that was subtle and alarming in its growth.

"For a time, the task seemed almost hopeless because of the contributing incentive furnished through saloon interests, but we are glad to say that notwithstanding that enormous protective influence, we have never failed, with the help of Mr. Thrasher, to move an objectionable tenant, and we feel that most of the credit in locating and expelling that class is due to the Committee of Fifteen and that a plain statement of fact is the least that could be done to show our appreciation."

Organized and persistent effort by owners and agents against undesirable tenants would suppress commercialized vice in Chicago to a greater degree than is possible through any other agency. It would do much to eliminate sources of graft and to improve moral conditions. Will the real estate owners assume the responsibility which we believe is clearly theirs?

Cases.

It would take more space than I am allowed for this report to deal properly with all the important cases with which the Committee has dealt during the last year. I will mention only two of them, for the specific reason that in both cases the defendants were acquitted after trial on criminal charges in the Municipal Court.

Ben Zellern, keeper of the Vestibule, who had an unsavory reputation for years in other resorts, as well as in the Vestibule at 6-8-10 East Twenty-second Street. At about the time we started procedure under the Injunction Law, Zellern was arrested on charges of keeping a house of prostitution and illegal liquor selling. He, through his counsel, asked for a change of venue, and objected by affidavit to eighteen of the thirty-one judges of the Municipal Court. The case was assigned to and tried by a judge to whom no objection was made. The trial resulted in acquittal. This acquittal did not stop legal proceeding in the injunction case, although his attorneys used every means known to make that acquittal a bar

to further procedure. As the injunction was against the property and not the person, our attorneys succeeded in convincing the court that the evidence should be heard. To refute the testimony submitted by the prosecution, the defense put on six policemen assigned to that district, who, to the astonishment of all, testified that they had never heard of the ill-repute of Ben Zellern or his notorious resort. The trial resulted in a decree closing the house against its use for any purpose for a period of one year unless a bond was furnished, conditioned that the owner would abate the nuisance and keep the property free from further immoral practices.

The other case is that of Violet Phipps, also of unsavory reputation in Chicago for many years. By her own admission she was formerly an inmate of the Everleigh Club, the notorious gilded palace of vice, which became so bad that Chicago would not stand for it, and was closed by official edict several years ago. The Telephone Company, when informed concerning the immorality in one of her resorts, refused telephone service. She sued the company in mandamus proceeding. After an exhaustive trial, during which Violet Phipps testified in her own behalf, the court decided in favor of the telephone company, saying:

"It is abundantly established by the evidence in this case that the petitioner has for a great many years been engaged in that ancient profession which the legislature considers contrary to the morals and the good order of the community, and that she has continuously, up to the time that she took the present apartment, been engaged in keeping establishments where others have congregated who have followed the same profession as herself. The finding of the court is for the respondent."

Miss Phipps appealed the case, and the Supreme Court affirmed the decision. We have certified copies of records showing that she, under her varied aliases, has been convicted for keeping houses of prostitution, and for selling liquor in violation of the law. We had complaints from two educational institutions, nearby her present place on Michigan Avenue. Investigations showed clearly to us that the house was being used as a house of prostitution. We served notice under the Injunction Law, and informed the government officials, as to the sale of liquor, and the captain of the precinct, in which the house is located, as to the facts as we knew them. A joint raid by the government officials and the

police was made, which resulted in the arrest of Violet Phipps and four girls, the girls being dressed, as the captain put it, in "extreme negligée." The case came on for trial and was desperately defended. It is significant that neither Violet Phipps, nor any one of the girls, present at the time our men investigated the place, or at the time of the raid, took the witness stand in her defense. Notwithstanding a vigorous prosecution by Assistant State's Attorney S. A. Bristow, the jury found her not guilty.

Violet Phipps may take such comfort from this as she can, but she is under bond now, after a preliminary hearing, awaiting the action of the federal grand jury upon the testimony of the men who were witnesses in the Municipal Court. She, by one device or another, and by influence from various sources, succeeded in inducing the telephone company to install two telephones in her present place, one in her own name and one in the name of Harry B. Carter. Upon the recommendation of the chief of police, the telephone company has removed both telephones, and a careful watch of the place reveals a decided improvement.

Prior to the raid, during one six-hour period, eight automobiles unloaded passengers who entered her house, and she had many visitors, male and female, who came afoot, singly or in pairs. If she conducts an immoral place there, we shall surely obtain the evidence and will apply for an injunction, with no fear of the result.

The Committee of Fifteen is interested only in cleaning up places which we believe to be houses of prostitution. That is our purpose.

The Bulletin.

A few months ago the Committee decided to issue a Bulletin from time to time setting forth the essential facts concerning the work of the Committee and dealing with particular phases of our varied problems. We have issued three Bulletins. The first one dealt with facts concerning the Committee's work. The second with "The Responsibility of Real Estate Owners and Agents," which contains several letters from prominent real estate men commendatory of the Committee's work, and the third contains an article by Dr. W. A. Evans on "Prostitution and Venereal Diseases." These Bulletins have received favorable comments, not only from the directors and members of the Committee, but from various other sources in and out of Chi-

cago. A few of the commendatory letters read as follows:

Harold Swift says:

"The first issue of the Bulletin looks all right to me and I hope it will be effective in its purpose."

Gen. Leonard Wood writes:

"Thank you for the copy of your Bulletin. I should like about a dozen extra ones if you can conveniently let me have them. I hope very much that I shall be able to attend some of your meetings in the future. Unfortunately, I have been kept very busy with labor and other conditions throughout the department."

Nathaniel Butler writes:

"Thank you very much for a copy of the first number of the Bulletin. I am sure it will prove highly useful."

Edwin W. Sims, our secretary, writes:

"I have your letter of November 28 enclosing No. 1, Vol. 1, of the Committee of Fifteen Bulletin. In my judgment, information as to the work of the Committee of Fifteen, published periodically in short, snappy form, like this first issue, will be very helpful. I want to compliment and congratulate you upon the appearance of the initial Bulletin."

Joseph Deutsch, of Edwards & Deutsch, writes:

"I acknowledge with pleasure your letter of November 28 enclosing the first of a series of bulletins promulgated by the Committee for the supporters of its cause. The commendable work of the Committee is most gratifying, and I assure you that I will be very much interested in receiving these bulletins from time to time as they are published."

It is the purpose of the Committee to continue this publication.

Influence Outside Chicago.

It is gratifying to report that, without detracting at all from the work of the Committee in Chicago, our efforts have attracted a great deal of attention throughout the country, and, to some extent, throughout the world. We have been obliged to answer inquiries from individuals and

organizations from one hundred and eleven different cities in thirty-six different states. We have also corresponded on the same topic with officials and others in ten other countries, as follows: England, Canada, Alaska, Japan, China, Australia, New Zealand, India, South America and the Philippine Islands. We quote from one letter from Mrs. Winifred Giles of London:

"It is extremely kind of you to take so much trouble for me. I thank you for the enclosures. I am glad that I am on your regular mailing list. I have passed on your information and enclosures about the women police to headquarters of our police service in England. I thank you so much. Please be sure and tell me if I can be of any use to you in supplying information from this side."

A letter from O. T. Krieger, pastor of the M. E. Church at Fairbanks, Alaska, says:

"I desire to acknowledge receipt of the Chicago Vice Commission's Report with booklets. Please accept my thanks for the same. We have vice conditions here about as bad as could be. I think the worst thing about it is the total lack of a public conscience on the matter. The officials as yet show no inclination to better conditions."

We have a letter from Dr. J. V. DeLeon, medical inspector of the official government of the Philippine Islands, which reads:

"Please accept my thanks for the service which you have so kindly given me in securing the books on the social evil in the United States. The books have just been received today. The same movement and other civic reforms by welfare societies and citizens' leagues are now being commenced all over the Philippines.

"Again thanking you for your courtesy, and wishing you and the Committee of Fifteen every success in your great humanitarian undertaking, I beg to remain."

A letter from Arthur W. Manuel, secretary of the Y. M. C. A., at Sao Paulo, Brazil, reads:

"I wish to thank you for your helpful letter of June 21, with its enclosures, regarding the work as conducted by the Committee of Fifteen. Prostitution in

this city is wide open. A few men are interested in attempting to help clean up. Your co-operation is greatly appreciated."

We have had inquiries and have furnished our literature to twelve universities and colleges, thirty libraries and twenty-four Y. M. C. A.'s. We have given specific information and advice regarding organization and methods in many instances.

The most striking illustration may be recorded concerning our relations with the Committee of Sixteen in Montreal, Canada. This committee was formed almost identical with the Committee of Fifteen. They followed our charter and by-laws when the organization was formed. They took up the matter of the Injunction Law, and sought our assistance in the advocacy of such a law for the Province of Quebec. I told them what we had done and how we had accomplished our purpose, and they sought our advice on many points. We gave them such assistance as we could, which they seemed to appreciate. A letter from their secretary, Mr. Owen Dawson, says:

"I have your letter of October 30 and wish to thank you for your courtesy in replying so fully to the points raised in Mr. Chipman's letter. Will you please convey our thanks to your attorneys. I am forwarding copy of Mr. Godman's letter to Mr. Chipman, Mr. Gordon, our city attorney, and Mr. Falconer. I feel sure this information will be of much benefit. Thanking you for your assistance, I am."

Tax Exemption.

The following letter from our attorneys explains itself:

"We beg to advise you that we have been successful in securing a reversal of the ruling of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, made in September last, that contributions to the Committee of Fifteen were not deductible from incomes of individuals in computing their income tax.

"The matter was presented upon written briefs and oral argument before the Commissioner at Washington, and we have received official notice of the reversal of the Commissioner's former decision in the following letter:

“Reference is made to your letter of February 13, 1920, concerning the taxable status of the Committee of Fifteen. It is held that the corporation known as the Committee of Fifteen is exempt from income tax under Subdivision 6 of Section 231 of the Revenue Act of 1918, and contributions made to it by individuals are deductible from gross income in accordance with the provisions of Subdivision 11 of Section 214 (a) the same Act.’ ”

“Yours truly,

“(Signed) SIMS, WELSH & GODMAN.”

Conclusion.

In the foregoing you have an unvarnished account of the war the Committee of Fifteen is waging for the betterment of the world, the country, the city, society and the home. Is it not well worth while?

Respectfully submitted,

S. P. THRASHER,
Superintendent.

CHICAGO WITHOUT THE COMMITTEE.

By Rush C. Butler.

Vice conditions in the City of Chicago in 1908, the year in which the Committee of Fifteen was organized, will be revived unless the activities of the Committee of Fifteen receive such moral and financial support from the citizens of Chicago as will enable it to continue its activities.

Segregation Highest Form of Regulation

Unless segregation can be justified regulation fails, for segregation is said by those who favor it to be the highest form of regulation.

Evils of Segregation

If prostitution may be openly and notoriously practiced in violation of both moral and statutory law, why is it not logical to propose that murder, if it be committed on Michigan Avenue, go unpunished?

If vice is scattered because segregation is done away with, its newly found neighbors are certainly not without either the means or the ability to drive it out. But if it is true that the elimination of segregation scatters vice, the Committee of Fifteen would not change its policy under any circumstances, for it cannot and will not compromise with immorality.

Segregation does not segregate.

Segregation creates nests of crime usually in the midst of a class of people who, by force of conditions, are perhaps most susceptible to the influences of such surroundings.

Segregation necessarily means the commercialization of vice. Its immediate beneficiaries are the property owners who receive unusually high returns for the unlawful use of their premises, the proprietors of the houses, usually men hiding behind the skirts of women, the inmates themselves and the panders or procurers—the white-slavers who deal in the bodies of women. The prostitute, who is the foundation of the entire system, is the one who receives the smallest financial returns from the sale of her virtue.

Segregation creates disrespect for both statutory and moral law.

Segregation is disease spreading.

Segregation makes the business of the pander possible. The experience of the Committee of Fifteen shows that with the elimination of red light districts, the white slaver is put out of business.

Segregation means graft and corruption among public officials.

Segregation invites indulgence. The protected house is a standing invitation to men to yield in moments of weakness.

Segregation invites girls and women to become prostitutes, means protection from arrest, gaudy clothes, and a supposedly enjoyable life.

Debauch, visiting places of bad repute, lavish expenditure of borrowed or misappropriated money are natural consequences of protected prostitution.

Segregation means conflict between sanitary and moral ends. The more sanitary—the more free from disease a segregated district may be—the greater the conflict between sanitation and morality. It is one of the great things of life that the moral law appears in different forms to check up men and women of flesh and make them consider the consequences of evil doing. If prostitutes are guaranteed immunity from disease, there is that much less incentive to return to a decent life, that much less opportunity for the operation of a stricken conscience, that much less hope of their conversion to a proper method of living.

If Chicago desires to avoid a return to these conditions, it can do so by supporting the Committee of Fifteen.

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JUL 16 1920

THE COMMITTEE OF FIFTEEN

By Hon. William Howard Taft.

The Christian civilization and the present social order rest on individual liberty and the right of property. Without them, the material progress and comfort essential to intellectual, artistic and spiritual development of all the people would not be possible. Under our present social order, the prospect of gain is the motive for industry, thrift, invention and organization. This is the capitalistic system. To prevent its sinking into sordid selfishness and to secure real and abiding happiness, the beneficiaries of the system have the responsibility of using their accumulations and their opportunities to aid their fellowmen. The poverty stricken, the unfortunates, the derelicts must be helped both by governmental aid and by individual organization and effort, and thus the charges of injustice and cruelty against the capitalistic system must be met.

Work of the Committee.

The Committee of Fifteen have taken up a phase of human weakness, degeneracy and the spread of dangerous diseases covered by the word, "prostitution," and have conducted a most effective campaign against this commercialized vice. They have not made a frontal attack on it by spasmodic arrests and prosecutions of the thousands of poor creatures who ply their demoralizing trade, but they have attacked the enemy on the flank.

No such trade can be carried on unless the owners of city property rent or lease it for the purpose. The Committee of Fifteen have found out who the owners are of the property in the Red Light districts, and have prosecuted them, giving them by notice an opportunity to stop this unlawful use of their property before taking legal proceedings. They have secured an admirable law called the injunction and abatement law, by which, when they ascertain that property is being thus unlawfully used, they can file a bill for an injunction against its further use and thus abate a nuisance, and compel the property to lie idle for a year.

The former Red Light districts of Chicago have ceased to be. I was permitted to visit them, and

with the agents of the Committee to note the disappearance of the former segregated houses of prostitution in two of the Chicago centers. It is said that the destruction of the segregated centers of prostitution scatters the vice into the wholesome residential portions of Chicago. There is no evidence of this; and even if some proprietors of houses do seek to establish themselves in decent portions of the city, they will soon be driven out. Even if some continue, their places are not generally known, so that they do not form the general temptation to heedless youth, due to ease of access.

Worthy of Support.

The great evil of the Red Light district is the advertisement that its segregation furnishes of its nefarious wares. The members of the Committee of Fifteen and their efficient superintendent are to be profoundly congratulated on their success, and should be supported by generous contributions of their grateful fellow citizens. They are engaged in fighting an evil which is peculiarly tenacious in a great city where municipal politics come close to the ground, and in which vile corruption and blackmail too frequently play an important part. It needs courage to fight the criminal purposes and facilities of the underworld, but the Committee of Fifteen and its superintendent have had that courage and the shrewdness and common sense needed to win. They have not abolished prostitution in Chicago, but they have so minimized commercialized vice as greatly to reduce its harmful and noxious results. They must keep at it, however—eternal vigilance is the price of its victory. The forces of evil are always at hand and are as constant as the force of gravitation.

Pledge Card

I hereby agree to give to THE COMMITTEE OF FIF-

TEEN _____ Dollars,

to be used for current expenses in its work against Commercialized Vice in Chicago during the fiscal year ending April 30, 1921.

I further agree to pay this pledge during the month of _____, 19____

Signed _____

Address _____

Date _____ 19____

Pledge Card

I hereby agree to give to THE COMMITTEE OF FIF-

TEEN _____ Dollars,

to be used for current expenses in its work against Commercialized Vice in Chicago during the fiscal year ending April 30, 1921.

I further agree to pay this pledge during the month of _____, 19____

Signed _____

Address _____

Date _____ 19____

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The members of the Committee of Fifteen and their efficient superintendent are to be profoundly congratulated on their success, and should be supported by generous contributions of their grateful fellow citizens. They are engaged in fighting an evil which is peculiarly tenacious in a great city where municipal politics comes close to the ground, and in which vile corruption and blackmail too frequently play an important part. It needs courage to fight the criminal purposes and facilities of the underworld, but the Committee of Fifteen and its superintendent have had that courage, and the shrewdness and common sense needed to win.

Hon. William Howard Taft.

The Committee of Fifteen belongs to the citizens of Chicago, belongs to each one of you individually. The men and women constituting its Board of Directors are your representatives and become the channel through which you work to prevent the re-establishment of a red light district in our city.

Henry P. Crowell.

Vice conditions in the City of Chicago in 1908, the year in which the Committee of Fifteen was organized, will be revived unless the activities of the Committee of Fifteen receive such moral and financial support from the citizens of Chicago as will enable it to continue its activities.

Rush C. Butler.

We have answered inquiries from one hundred and eleven cities in thirty-six American states, and ten other countries as follows: England, Canada, Alaska, Japan, China, Australia, New Zealand, India, South America and the Philippine Islands.

Samuel P. Thrasher.

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Annual Report

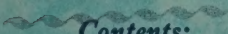
of the

Committee of Fifteen

for the year ended
April 30, 1921

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JUL 16 1921



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**Endorsed by the Chicago Association of
Commerce Subscriptions Investigating
Committee for the regular period ending
November 30, 1921.**

Additional Copies of this Report gladly furnished upon request.

Contributions Deductible from Income Tax

Contributions to the Committee of Fifteen are deductible from incomes of Individuals in computing their income tax.

A letter from the Commissioner of Internal Revenue at Washington reads:

“The Committee of Fifteen is exempt from income tax under Subdivision 6 of Section 231 of the Revenue Act of 1918, and contributions made to it by individuals are deductible from gross income in accordance with the provisions of Subdivision 11 of Section 214 (a) of the same Act.”

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JUL 16 1921

Committee of Fifteen

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JULIUS ROSENWALD.....	1st Vice-President
EDWARD M. SKINNER.....	2nd Vice-President
DAVID R. FORGAN.....	Treasurer
EDWIN W. SIMS.....	Secretary

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SAMUEL P. THRASHER, Superintendent

SIMS, WELCH & GODMAN, Counsel

Offices: 807 OTIS BUILDING

10 S. La Salle St.

'Phone: FRANKLIN 4440

FOREWORD

The officers of the Committee of Fifteen wish to express sincere appreciation to the directors, members and friends of the Committee for their loyal support during the last year. The following pages detail the activities of the Committee in a way to inspire all those who have given of their time and money to carry on this important work. We rejoice with you that so much has been accomplished.

It is worthy of note that no application for an injunction against a house of prostitution has been asked for and refused;

That no mistakes have been made affecting the standing of the Committee before the courts or the public; and

That the Committee is enjoying cooperative relations with the law officers of the federal government, the state and the city.

We express the hope that this account of our stewardship will meet with the approval of all those who have helped to bear the burden.

HENRY P. CROWELL,

President.

THE VALUE OF CIVILIAN AID TO THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

*By Charles C. Fitzmorris, General Superintendent of
Police*

I hope that you will bear with me in my first attempt at talking in public; and because I appreciate the responsibility, and because I talk neither easily nor successfully, I have taken the liberty of writing the things I have to say.

The subject upon which I speak has been assigned to me by your very able director, Mr. Thrasher—"The Value of Civilian Aid to the Police Department."

My theory of police work is that a policeman should be seen and not heard. If he is seen often enough, it will not be necessary for him to be heard.

Immediately we must recognize the value of civilian aid to the police department.

According to the greatest authority on morals that we know of, we are governed entirely by our self interest.

Lecky, in his "History of European Morals," tells us that vice is whatever is injurious to society, and that virtue is whatever is of benefit to society.

We have a police department, and the police department functions as best it may. The police department has no illusions. Ninety per cent of us are against vice because it is injurious to society, of which we are a part. Ten per cent of us are indifferent.

Civilian aid to the department means civic interest in the department, and that interest is nothing but an expression of civic conscience, and civic conscience is usually dormant.

Police Need Public Support

The Police Department cannot function without public support, without public aid. The Police Department is composed largely of men who have the same ambitions, the same desires, the same respect for law and order that you have. It is composed of men who have families and who own their own homes. It is constantly on the offensive against the forces that are opposed to these things—that are opposed to good government.

The average citizen is on the defensive so long as the forces that prey upon society do not affect him. You are indifferent, and the Police Department suffers through that indifference. I would like to leave this

thought with you: The fight of the Police Department is your fight; the victories of the Police Department are your victories; and the defeats of the Police Department are your defeats.

We recognize that vice and lawlessness are inimical to society, and we fight against them. The average citizen—the good citizen—if he thinks about the subject at all, comes to the same conclusion, but he does not fight unless these forces affect him in his daily life.

He proceeds on the even tenor of his way without even an interest in the organization that he pays to protect him and his family.

Lawlessness on the Decline Here

At this time when the entire country is in the grip of an unprecedented crime wave, Chicago enjoys the distinction of being a city where lawlessness is on the decline rather than on the increase.

In order to maintain this efficiency, the Police Department must have civilian aid, and that aid must come in a very distinct form. The way to help the Police Department, as I see it, is to take an interest in the Department, in the personnel, and in the effort that the Department is making to reduce crime.

Criticize the Police Department when it fails to function; criticize it severely if you please—but, above all, and beyond all else, you must take an active interest in this organization, which, in the last analysis, is your organization.

Chicago is the railroad center of the country. Into it pour from every point the wanderers—the fortune hunters—the social parasites—the desperately poor—the potential criminal—and the confirmed outlaw.

The barrier that society sets up against this flood is the Police Department, and the only barrier that it sets up is the Police Department. The Police Department stands between decency and lawlessness. This is true always. In these days it is more true than ever before. We are in the midst of conditions which have filled the community with men who are out of employment, many of whom feel that the country owes them a living, and that force and only force is the way to secure it.

When his honor, the Mayor, did me the honor to appoint me to this position, he gave me just one order. That order was: To clean Chicago and keep it clean; to enforce the laws without fear and without favor; to reward efficiency in the Department and to see that police work on the part of members of the Department was recognized quickly and substantially. And this is what I want you to have in your mind that I am working for.

I am not satisfied with the Police Department—not yet. I will be satisfied when the Mayor is satisfied,

and that will be when Chicago shall have been cleaned of crime and vice.

This Committee Shows Civic Interest

When the Police Department knows that it is being watched—critically, if you like; suspiciously, if you wish, but certainly watched, there is no doubt that it will function better and more efficiently. The forces that are opposed to society are always on the watch. It is the good citizen that pays no attention. Organizations such as the Committee of Fifteen, and the Crime Commission, as they are conducted at present, are admirable vehicles for the expression of civic interest. They are the connecting links between the public and the Police Department.

The average citizen, no matter what we may say, has neither time nor the inclination to pay attention to this thing, and, for that reason, such organizations as the Committee of Fifteen and the Crime Commission, representing as they do the citizenship of the city, provide a check upon the work of the men who are the servants of the public. We all march better when we are passing a grand stand, and the Police Department will function better if it realizes that through some organization, such as these, the eyes of the public are focused upon it.

Tribute to States Attorney Crowe

I would be remiss, if, in the discussion of police actively, I did not pay a very well merited tribute to our efficient State's Attorney, Robert E. Crowe. Without his cooperation, the work of the Police Department would be ineffectual and useless. He has made it possible for us to succeed to the extent that we have succeeded. He has assisted to a large extent in whatever measure of success the Police Department has attained in the last few months, and it is a pleasure as well as a duty to acknowledge the fact. His vigorous and intelligent support has made the work of the police easier and more efficient. We are willing to fight against crime. We arrest the crooks. He puts them away.

I appreciate the privilege of discussing the Police Department and of endeavoring to point out to you the value—or rather the necessity of civilian interest in the work of the Police Department. With such an interest the Police Department will succeed, and when the Police Department succeeds, you succeed in the fight against crime. Without your support and interest, the Police Department fails, and when we fail, you lose. When you lose interest in the Police Department, you lose the Police Department, and when that day comes you will have lost the only barrier—the only line of defense—between you and chaos.

THE CHICAGO OF TOMORROW

By Dr. John Timothy Stone

The city, more than ever before in the history of the world, has become the center of activity and influence, and as our cities develop, the nation will develop. We may cry "back to the soil," and argue eloquently for the supremacy of the rural district, and for agricultural preeminence, but, after all, statistics show that our cities are growing larger and larger, and a greater percentage of our population centering therein. The nations of the earth are gathered together within the circumference of the modern city, and the problems and responsibilities of the world are increasingly gathering there.

When we study history, we find that this is not a new or unique condition. In Ninevah and Babylon center the interests and history of the ancient kingdoms of which they were so vital a part. Their life developed in ascendancy, and created the degeneracy of the lands of which they were capitals. Thebes and Alexandria held the same relation to Egypt and Africa; Athens, in a particular sense, was Greece. The destruction of Pompeii and Herculaneum proved the downfall of the lands in which they glistened. Rome tempered and controlled Italy; Madrid, Spain; Paris, France; London, Great Britain. The city has led, and as the city has developed, the nations have followed.

Democracy's Problem Is the City

The problem of democracy is not the problem of the historian or the prophet, neither is it the problem of the shepherd or ranchman; it is the problem of the city and her government. If democracy can govern and rule aright our cities, she will prove her efficiency and triumph. If the city fails, she fails.

We reverence the red brick school-house of our grandfather's and its influence has been far-reaching. We must consider, however, with the religion of a present the fact of the *pressed* brick school house in the vast architecture of the present hour.

The Committee of Fifteen has never dealt narrowly nor superficially with the facts and vices of the hour, and has never entertained false modesty. It speaks to man and woman alike. Clean manhood and pure womanhood alone can preserve the standards of our fathers and make the Chicago of tomorrow what it should be.

We are not dealing with great questions, as such, in the abstract, although this work is closely in sympathy with the study of this whole great moral question, and may the time soon come when the societies of social hygiene and those related to them may be even in closer sympathy with us in the adjustment and pursuance of our work. We are organized to face a great commercialized vice; a hydra-headed monster of almost unmeasurable scope and influence, who is determined to undermine moral standards for his own selfish avarice. The youth of our city, both boy and girl, must be saved from becoming victims of this awful lust and destruction.

City and Nation Owe Endorsement

The city and the nation owe to such committees as the Committee of Fifteen their unqualified endorsement and unselfish support. Such men as yourself, Mr. Chairman, and those associated with you, challenge us all to put our best efforts into this righteous army which is aiming to overcome this awful evil. We must preserve the home, for the home is the unit of society. The pictures of the Old Testament home life fill us with enthusiasm for simple and pure living, but those homes were based upon the commandments of Moses, the magna carta of all freedom and righteous living. The fifth commandment, "Honor thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee," is no more vital than the seventh, "Thou shalt not commit adultery." A disregard of the great fundamental commandments of God can never save the nation from the awful evils and curses of sin.

Demands Constant Opposition

We refer sometimes to the sin of intemperance, and this country has recognized, commercially as well as morally, the value of overcoming it, but this sin of intemperance, nor any other sin, begins to compare in its awful influence with the evil of immorality, and the crime and suffering related to it. This fundamental sin of the human heart and human body must demand the closest and most constant energy of care and opposition, if we are to build pure lives and as the individual man and woman grows in purity, the home will be preserved, and the "Chicago of tomorrow" assured.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED APRIL 30, 1921.

*Mr. President, Officers, Directors, Members and
Friends of the Committee of Fifteen:*

During the year just closed, our investigators made 11,041 personal calls for the purpose of investigating conditions and reporting the facts. This averages nearly a thousand per month. They secured evidence of immorality in eight hundred and sixteen instances which averages sixty-eight per month. This evidence, together with that obtained prior to May 1st, 1920, warranted action against two hundred and eight places. We notified each owner of one hundred and ninety-five places in a confidential letter called an informal notice, regarding the immorality on their properties. One hundred and thirty-four owners immediately took steps to correct conditions. Seventy-four of the two hundred and eight owners were negligent or defiant, and it was necessary to serve them with a legal notice under the Injunction and Abatement law. Forty-five of the seventy-four owners proceeded against their tenants and made it unnecessary for us to apply for injunctions against them. We have applied for and obtained injunctions against seven places, leaving twenty-two places needing further treatment. Recent investigations of the two hundred and eight places, reveal the following facts:

In seventy places there was no further evidence of immorality obtainable. In sixty-six places our investigators found new tenants. In forty-three places the houses or apartments were found vacant, leaving the twenty-two above referred to for further attention, and the seven places already enjoined.

Injunction Law.

The Injunction Law is the most effective weapon that can be used against vice promoters. Owners do not want their property tied up for a year against its use for any purpose, nor do they want a record of an injunction against it, even though the injunction may be vacated by a bond conditioned that the owner will keep it free from immorality, and occupants will hesitate about violating an injunction for fear they may be fined and imprisoned for contempt. It is the fear of the consequences of this law that has enabled us to close so many houses of prostitution. Arrests, convictions and fines amount to little.

The policy of enjoining houses from being used for immoral purposes and enjoining all the parties responsible from keeping any such houses within the jurisdiction of the court is putting the fear of the law, it not the fear of God, in the hearts of many people.

2212-14-16 South Dearborn Street.

In these three buildings prostitution has been practiced for years, principally by colored people. The owner apparently has been helpless to correct conditions. When we applied for an injunction he made no protest, but joined with us in asking for the injunction which ran against himself as well as his tenants. He went with our special officer to serve the injunction writs upon the occupants. The injunction was immediately effective without further pressure, and for the first time in years those buildings are purged of their iniquity.

620 N. Clark Street.

This was a vicious "dry" cabaret on the first floor (but was exceedingly wet) with an immoral hotel on the floors above. When our counsel presented the case the court asked the owner's attorney what he had to say about the allegations. He said, "I have no doubt that the allegations in the petition are true." The court said, "Let the injunction issue at once." The proprietor of the cabaret was in court and said, "Your honor, I am the lessee of the cabaret and have something to say about this. I want a continuance." The court said, "The injunction has issued. You have had plenty of time to get an attorney and attend to this matter. You must meet the issue in proper form. The injunction prohibits any immoral practices in that place, and if anybody violates it he will be severely dealt with." The injunction writs were served that day and the hotel keeper surrendered his lease. In the cabaret, notices were posted that no unescorted woman would be allowed in the place. The keeper has struggled along trying to do business under difficulties, but that community has been delivered from a resort which was a menace to its young people.

1452 W. Madison Street.

This place has been a vicious resort for a long time. A few years ago a murder was committed there. We have been able to dislodge two tenants without resorting to the courts. Finally a resort keeper, who had conducted resorts elsewhere, became the tenant and defiantly conducted a house of prostitution. Upon complaint from the Committee, the agents failed to correct conditions, and we were obliged to apply for an injunction, which was granted and is now in force

9048 *The Strand.*

This place was one of several on the so-called Strand in South Chicago. We have had no end of difficulty in dealing with them on account of the evasive tactics of the responsible parties. In this particular place we were able to serve notice upon and secure an injunction against the owner, which can be violated only at his peril. The attacks which have been made on the Strand have changed its vicious character markedly.

1659 W. Adams Street.

This has been a most difficult place to deal with. Our records show that evidence has been obtained and procedure started three times. When the owner received a notice, he would apparently correct the conditions of which we complained and no further evidence could be obtained for some weeks. Then there would be a recurrence of the immoral procedure and we would start over again with the same result. Finally we decided that an injunction would be the only permanent cure. The court agreed with us and granted the application.

Pandering.

During the year just closed, the Committee has rendered assistance in convicting eleven panders; together they were fined \$4,600.00, with a total imprisonment of eight years and nine months. This averages a fine of \$418 and an imprisonment of nine months for each person.

The difficulty encountered in prosecuting panders may be revealed in the following case:

Two girls, working as chambermaids in a prominent hotel, revealed the facts to Miss Jessie F. Binford, of the Girls' Protective Bureau, that two men, working as porters in the hotel, were luring the chambermaids into immorality; that they proposed to place them in a house of prostitution and divide the profits, or guarantee them \$50 a week each. Arrangements were made by which one of the girls was to go with one of the men to a certain house on the west side. Our special officer and assistant superintendent were there and followed the man into the room where the proprietor had placed the girl, and they immediately arrested him. He was prosecuted on a charge of an "attempt to commit an offense," as he had not been able to consummate his plans.

The court held that there cannot be an "attempt to pander," but stated: "The character of the man himself stamps him as the lowest breed of mankind. He is the scum of the earth; he is the dregs of society; there is no meaner character than he is; morally, and in the sight of God, this man is just as guilty as though he had consummated the act. That is all I have to say about it. Defendant discharged."

In his decision the judge held that the overt acts which were proved did not constitute an attempt within the meaning of the law, and that he would not be justified in holding the man guilty. The two girls testified willingly and were commended by the court and the State's Attorney for their courageous efforts in behalf of decency. The girls were provided with transportation to their homes in New York, and we have since learned that they both have found agreeable employment.

Special Cases.

A few months ago a prominent citizen of Chicago came to our office with a letter which had been written to his daughter by a man, suggesting a trip to Florida and Cuba. The daughter had never seen or heard of this man. We answered the letter, made an appointment, and took the conversation down over a dictagraph. He repeated verbally his invitation to take the trip. There was some evidence of mental defectiveness, and we did not have the man arrested, but he was very much disturbed when he found he had been uncovered and agreed not to write any more such letters. He was warned that if he did he would be exposed to his employers and the public.

A letter from the father of the girl reads as follows:

"Your confidential letter of December 22nd is received. I feel that you have handled the matter very wisely and am glad to know that the episode is closed."

We dealt with a peculiar situation on the north side, where neighbors adjacent to a hotel reported extreme immoral conduct on the part of the occupants of the hotel. The neighbors allowed our investigators to occupy a room in their apartment for parts of two nights to see and hear what was going on in the rooms of the hotel across a narrow alley. They observed disorderly conduct and heard obscene and vulgar language, but did not obtain enough incriminating evidence to warrant legal action. We took the matter up with the proprietor of the hotel.

A letter from the complainants reads in part:

"By your co-operation and vigor in handling the situation, the condition has ceased to exist. I have found your co-operation most thorough and to the point and that you accomplish real things."

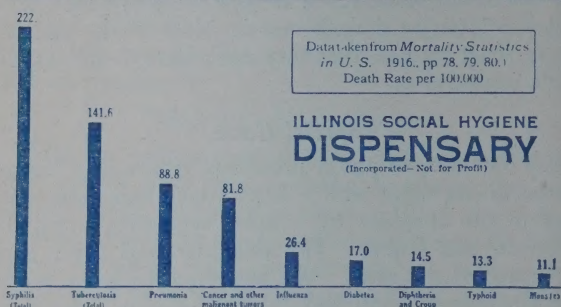
Venereal Diseases.

It is apparent that no reliable statistics can be given concerning venereal diseases, nor are statistics available to show the extent to which they have been minimized in Chicago by the work of the Committee, but it is plain that in so far as we have been able to

eliminate houses of prostitution we have to that extent destroyed the breeding places of these diseases.

The following chart, furnished by the Illinois Social Hygiene League, tells its own story.

Syphilis is the Greatest Killing Disease



It is stated on good authority that 40 per cent of all the blind children brought into the world are made so by this awful plague. All the beauty of this wonderful world is shut out from them forever by the sin of others. We say "God pity them," but it would be more appropriate to say "God forgive us for our sin of neglect which makes this thing possible."

Co-operation of Owners and Agents.

I am pleased to say that there is an increased desire on the part of owners and agents to co-operate in an effort to get rid of undesirable tenants. Except in a few instances where vice promoters own the property, the owners are anxious to protect their property from the consequences of immorality. Some agents are careful and successful in keeping undesirables out. Too many agents are careless, probably owing to the fact that they are not held personally responsible as the owners are. If there could be an organization of owners and agents, with a well organized reference bureau from which all tenants, except those well known to the agents, should be compelled to obtain a recommendation before they are accepted, much more could be accomplished toward eliminating immoral tenants.

Official Co-operation.

It is with real pleasure that I report splendid co-operation with the police department under Chief Fitzmorris. Effective work is being done because of this co-operation. I heard of a case of domestic infelicity which resulted in both husband and wife being taken to court. The kind-hearted judge said to the woman: "Don't you love your husband?" With tears streaming down her face, she said: "I would if he'd let me." There have been times when the

officials of Chicago have resisted our advances to the detriment of both parties. That condition does not prevail at the moment.

During the last eight years I have seen four general superintendents of police assume the duties of that office. Each one in turn has made public his intention of driving the crooks out of Chicago. In each case I have felt constrained to say that when the chief drives the crooks out of the police department, he will be better able to drive the crooks out of Chicago. I have stated further that it was my belief that 10 per cent of the men on the force are either crooks or so inefficient as to make them worthless as policemen. Chief Fitzmorris has really undertaken to rid the department of worthless material. He has discharged scores of policemen during the last few months, and publicly states that he has five hundred more to deal with. As there are five thousand men on the force, his percentage and mine seem to be about the same. The chief is doing a great piece of work and should be encouraged and helped by every citizen.

State's Attorney Co-operates

It is also gratifying to report that State's Attorney Crowe is co-operating with the Committee in its war on commercialized vice. In February the State's Attorney entered into an arrangement with the Committee under which he agreed to send notices to the owners of property where evidence obtained by the Committee satisfied him that immoral conditions existed, provided the Committee do the necessary clerical work and keep proper record. He also instructed his assistant in the morals court to ask for ownership records based upon convictions in that court, under the same arrangement. Since February 15th we have prepared ninety-three notices for the State's Attorney, with the following results:

Of the ninety-three places dealt with, eighty-eight have been subsequently visited, revealing the facts that in fifty of them no further evidence of immorality was obtainable. Twelve places were vacant, and in seven places there were new tenants. In only nineteen places further evidence of immorality was obtained, which will necessarily require further action when sufficient evidence warrants.

Assistant State's Attorney, Frank Souhrada, who is assigned to the morals court, has, under instructions from the State's Attorney, sent out the notices above referred to, and in every way co-operated with the Committee. His relations with our special officer assigned to that court have been pleasant and profitable. The following letter from Mr. Souhrada speaks for itself:

"I wish to say a word in commendation of your special officer, Joseph L. Kin-

der, whom you have assigned to the morals court. He has a keen scent for the pander; he looks up the evidence, examines witnesses, helps prepare the information, and is of real service in prosecuting such cases. It is a pleasure for me to say this much in his behalf."

Yours very truly,

(Signed)

FRANK SOUHRADA.

Immoral Shows.

Immoral shows which have always been prevalent in Chicago, have seemed to be more flagrant during the last year. We have been able to secure admission to six different shows, all of them extremely bad. By giving tickets of admission to the police department, four of them have been prevented. In one case the show was permitted to go on and the responsible parties were arrested, convicted and fined. In another where the police had tickets nothing was done to prevent the show. The intervention of the police in one case caused a riot and some shooting, but no one was injured. If we know in advance, we can usually find a way to interfere. We have learned much about the booking agents who are responsible for these shows, and we know many of the promoters and vicious degenerate entertainers by name and residence. With the promise of official co-operation, this form of immorality will be dealt with in the future as the facts may warrant.

Legislation.

People interested in social legislation have presented a number of bills which are now pending before the present session. The Committee should lend its endorsement to all of them, as they bear more or less directly upon the work in which the Committee is engaged. One is an amendment to the Kate Adams Law, making a male solicitor, as well as a female, punishable. Another, which, at my suggestion, was drawn by our counsel, makes the keeper of a house of prostitution punishable by imprisonment. It is extremely unjust to punish an inmate of a house of prostitution by imprisonment, while the keeper who panders that inmate may escape with an inadequate money penalty. We are doing what we can to advocate the passage of these laws.

Commission on Race Relations.

In July, Graham Romeyn Taylor, executive secretary of the Chicago Commission on Race Relations, requested information as to the Committee's work on the south side of the city in the district from 12th street to 55th street, and from Wentworth avenue to the lake. We prepared a report covering sixty pages,

giving him a detailed account of the work of the Committee and the work of the morals court regarding vice conditions in that district from July 1, 1915, at the time the injunction law went into effect, to August 15th, 1920. An acknowledgment from Mr. Taylor says:

"In acknowledging receipt of the special report you have made for the Chicago Commission on Race Relations, with accompanying letter, presenting a summary of the report, I want to express our appreciation for this most effective co-operation which the Committee of Fifteen has rendered. I am sure that when the report comes before the Commission itself, the members will be much interested in it, and will value greatly, the information which it makes available in connection with our inquiries and investigations. The detailed statement of facts, giving specifically the location of houses of ill fame in the district which we indicated to you, together with your historical resume and your comments, bears very directly upon certain phases of the studies we are making.

"I note particularly the large influence which the Committee of Fifteen seems to have exerted, as shown by the fact that out of nine hundred and thirty-three places where it was proved that immorality existed, four hundred and seventy-six were dealt with by the Committee of Fifteen, and four hundred and fifty-seven dealt with by the morals court exclusively.

"Thanking you most heartily for the important co-operation which you have rendered, I am,

"Yours very truly,

(Signed)

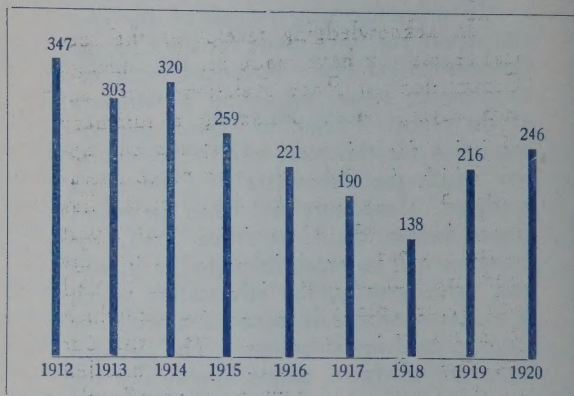
GRAHAM ROMEYN TAYLOR.

Executive Secretary."

False Reports.

Ever since I have been in Chicago there has been an insidious propaganda, industriously circulated by the underworld, to the effect that the closing of the segregated districts endangered respectable women, and that the arrests for rape and assaults with attempt to rape had increased from 50 to 200 per cent. A few years ago I received a letter from Cleveland stating that they had reports that assaults upon women in Chicago had increased 50 per cent, and asking me if I could give the facts concerning the matter. I

was able to show that there was an immediate decrease in the number of rape cases after the closing of the red light districts in 1912. A few days ago I obtained figures from the clerk of the municipal court which reveal the facts as shown on the following chart.



There was a marked decrease the first year, a slight increase the second year after the red light districts were closed. From that time on there was a marked decrease down to and including 1918. During 1919 and 1920 there has been an increase. There is nothing abnormal about this. Thousands of men were in the army, and slackers and good-for-nothings were being hunted by federal, state and local officials. The war over, the mentality of the world disturbed as never before, and everything thrown out of balance as it has been, it is not surprising that there should have been an increase over the lowest mark in 1918. But in 1920 the figures show a decrease over 1912 by nearly 30 per cent, while during the eight years the population increased more than a million. Taking that into consideration, the normal decrease would be about 35 per cent. Recently I heard a man say that the increase in rape cases had been about 200 per cent over the days when the segregated districts were in full bloom. I am not going to be impolite enough to say that any one who says that is either a fool or a liar, but I am going to say that he does not know what he is talking about or is wilfully misrepresenting the facts. People must be hard pressed for facts when they distort the truth in this way.

Appreciation.

I want to express sincere appreciation to President Crowell and all the officers and members of the Committee who have so loyally served the Committee and community, making it possible to accomplish so much; also to our trusted investigators and members of the office force, without whose loyal and honest industry little could have been done.

Further, I wish to extend grateful recognition to the churches and social service organizations who have co-operated with the Committee toward the accomplishment of its purpose.

Conclusion.

In the foregoing you have a report of the work of the Committee of Fifteen for the past year. Its value is unquestioned, and there is much satisfaction in knowing that its benefits to the community will extend to coming generations. Our position is that stated in the title of the Introduction and Summary of the report of the Vice Commission—"Constant and persistent repression of prostitution, the immediate method. Absolute annihilation the ultimate ideal."

Respectfully submitted,

S. P. THRASHER,

Superintendent.

JUL 16 1921

FROM THE FINANCIAL VIEWPOINT

By A. W. Sherer

Ten years ago the budget of the small group that formed the nucleus of the Committee of Fifteen was \$3,000 a year. To keep pace with the requirement placed on the Committee by the growth of the city and the elusiveness of vice promoters, it has been necessary to increase the budget gradually to the 1920 amount, \$50,000.

Ten years ago it was possible to secure the \$3,000 necessary to the requirements of the work from a small number of individuals. Now that the needs of the Committee have reached present proportions the financial support of an increasing number of public spirited citizens is required.

Approximately one-half of the budget, or \$25,000 annually, is pledged for a five-year period. This amount comes largely from the officers and directors who are in intimate touch with the work. To continue to function effectively, the Committee needs an additional \$25,000 yearly. It is desired that this amount be secured in large or small amounts from individuals and organizations who have a real interest in tearing down the vile business that is an insult to every clean citizen of Chicago.

The officers of the Committee actively direct its work through monthly meetings of an Executive Committee, and quarterly meetings of the full directorate and meetings of the Advisory Board when required.

The investigating staff are kept to high standards of conduct and accuracy by the Superintendent as is evidenced; first, by the respect given to the Committee's evidence by the courts, and, second, by the records of the men who have graduated from its investigating staff into positions of responsibility in the business world.

Ten years ago large groups of men from neighboring schools and universities celebrated athletic victories by "going down the line" in the segregated districts. And this type of entertainment found an unpublished place on most Convention programs. The imagination of any well informed person will suggest the effect of this practice on the health and moral tone of the community.

The Committee of Fifteen had a large share in the wiping out of the restricted district and is today the watchdog of vice promoters in every section of the city.

A check for any amount will make you a shareholder in this great enterprise.

Pledge Card

I hereby agree to give to THE COMMITTEE OF FIF-

TEEN _____ Dollars,
to be used for current expenses in its work against Commer-
cialized Vice in Chicago during the fiscal year ending April
30, 1922.

I further agree to pay this pledge during the month of
_____, 19____

Signed _____

Address _____

Date _____ 19____

Pledge Card

I hereby agree to give to THE COMMITTEE OF FIF-

TEEN _____ Dollars,
to be used for current expenses in its work against Commer-
cialized Vice in Chicago during the fiscal year ending April
30, 1922.

I further agree to pay this pledge during the month of
_____, 19____

Signed _____

Address _____

Date _____ 19____

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VIGILANCE AND VICE

Chicago is a cleaner city today than it was seven years ago. Vice exists, but it is on the defensive. It no longer flaunts itself. It no longer spreads its net openly for unwary youth. It lives precariously, and its profits are small compared with what they used to be.

For this betterment the citizens of Chicago owe much to the unwearying labors of the Committee of Fifteen. The task in which it has engaged is not a pleasant one, but it is tremendously necessary. It demands of those who have undertaken it a high sense of public responsibility and a courageous devotion to the social ideals which make for the safety of youth and the moral health of the community. These demands have been met and Chicago reaps the benefit of this purely volunteer service in co-operation with the constituted officers of the law.

If Chicago is to keep as clean as it has been made, and to move forward steadily to higher standards of life, an unflinching vigilance must be maintained. If the close watch and the strong pressure are relaxed, the old conditions will return. To-day those who seek revenue from vice, from the debauching of youth, are hunted from place to place. Their traffic is made so dangerous and so difficult that many have abandoned it—or abandoned Chicago—and those who remain in the business must be content to operate on the most limited scale. Their power for evil has been restricted narrowly. But let the Committee of Fifteen slumber, deprive it of the means to carry on, and the reptile life of Chicago will crawl out of its holes and spread its corrupting slime over the city.

Those of us who breathe a cleaner moral atmosphere in Chicago because of the committee's work owe to it our support. Samuel P. Thrasher, its aggressive superintendent, must be provided with funds to keep up the fight, and David R. Forgan, the treasurer, will be glad to have your check.—*The Chicago Evening Post, Tuesday, March 29, 1921.*

"CRITICAL" INTEREST IN POLICE

It is unusual for the head of the police force of a great city to solicit vigilant and critical interest in his department, as Superintendent Fitzmorris did in his speech before the Committee of Fifteen. It is still more unusual for such an official to admit frankly that 10 per cent of his men do not deserve friendly or sympathetic interest.

But intelligent Chicagoans have learned to expect vigor and directness from Superintendent Fitzmorris. He knows that no police officer who does his duty, and sincerely desires to be free to continue to do his duty without interference from petty political bosses or crooks enjoying the protection of bosses, will object to "critical" interest in the activities of the force. On the contrary, the honest, efficient and energetic policeman is encouraged by such interest. It is only the slothful, the indifferent and the corrupt element on the force that has occasion to fear an alert and watchful public opinion.

Doubtless Superintendent Fitzmorris is sufficiently human to appreciate deserved compliments for his men, but just now it is not compliments that he seeks. He is determined to get rid of the obnoxious 10 per cent. He needs the support of civic bodies like the Committee of Fifteen. He wants well-attended and spirited citizens' meetings to take stock of the municipal crime situation and to serve notice on the lawless and predatory elements that the good work of honest, alert and able policemen is in reality only part of Chicago's warfare on commercialized vice and professional crime.

Truly, as Superintendent Fitzmorris says, the problems of the police force are the problems of the law-abiding and industrious citizenry as a whole. To lose interest in the police is in effect to lose interest in the things that stand between order and chaos, security and anti-social license and aggression.—*The Daily News, Wednesday, May 11, 1921.*

HIGH SPOTS IN THE GOOD WORK

Since July 1st, 1915, when the Injunction and Abatement Law went into effect, the Committee has sent eleven hundred eighty-four (1184) informal notices to owners, informing them that immorality had been discovered upon their properties. Nine hundred thirty (930) of them took such action as to make it unnecessary to proceed further under the law. Two hundred fifty-four (254) were careless or defiant, and we were obliged to serve upon them the legal notice as provided in the law. The effect of this legal notice has been such as to make it necessary to apply for only twenty-three (23) injunctions.

FOR THE YEAR

During the year ended April 30th, 1921, the Committee notified one hundred ninety-five (195) owners regarding the immorality on their properties. Seventy-four (74) owners were served with the legal notice under the Injunction and Abatement law, and injunctions against seven (7) places were applied for and granted. Recent investigations reveal the following facts:

In seventy (70) places no further evidence was obtainable.

In sixty-six (66) places new tenants were found.

In forty-three (43) places the houses or apartments were found vacant.

PANDERING

During the eight years just closed, the Committee has rendered assistance in convicting one hundred forty-seven (147) panders; together they were fined \$36,240.00, with a total term of imprisonment of eighty-nine (89) years and nine (9) months. This averages a fine of \$247.00, and an imprisonment of seven months for each person.

In the last year eleven (11) panders have been convicted and fined a total of \$4,600.00, with a total imprisonment of eight (8) years and nine (9) months. This averages \$418.00, with nine (9) months imprisonment for each.

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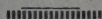
Annual Report

of the

Committee of Fifteen

for the year ended

April 30, 1922



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MISS HARRIET E. VITTM

SAMUEL P. THRASHER, Superintendent
SIMS, WELCH, GODMAN & DE YOUNG, Counsel
Offices: 807 OTIS BUILDING
10 S. La Salle St.
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FOREWORD

The following pages reveal what the Committee of Fifteen has done during the last year with the money so generously contributed by its supporters. This Committee tries to represent all those who desire to improve moral conditions in Chicago.

Houses of prostitution, vicious cabarets and immoral shows are dealing crippling blows to religion, morals and to civilization itself. The Committee is using effective methods in checking and minimizing these despicable influences.

If the Committee of Fifteen continues to receive the moral and financial backing its accomplishments merit, much can be done for the betterment of the city, especially in the suppression of commercialized vice, which is the Committee's particular work.

It is a pleasure for me to render this account of our stewardship.

H. P. CROWELL

President.

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THE SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

*Mr. President, Officers, Directors and
Friends of the Committee of Fifteen:*

The outstanding event of the year was the attack upon the cabaret situation, which had become intolerable. It was most difficult to deal with. There was little hope of success through ordinary court procedure. The villainy in evil cabarets had increased until in many of them nightly orgies of the most indecent and obscene character were general. Nothing was being done to stop them. The places were crowded with young and old, regardless of race or color, to witness and practice the most shameless acts, so indecent as to prohibit their description either in legal complaints or in a report like this. Something had to be done.

Co-operating with other social service organizations, we secured evidence against several of the most vicious cabarets and, with the co-operation of the police, raided the Entertainers' Cafe. Forty-four individuals, including the proprietor and his managers, were arrested. They began a desperate legal fight. The defendants' attorneys tried to have the complaints quashed. They asked for a change of venue from five judges, including Chief Justice Olson. He assigned one case to Judge Arnold Heap. After several continuances the case came on for trial. Judge Heap rendered a notable decision against the cafe from which I quote:

"In this instance the court is of the opinion that the acts were both indecent and obscene. This case smacks of barbarism and the jungle. * * * But how in the world such exhibitions could be maintained for so long a period of time under the very nose of the police force and under the eyes of the city administration passes human intelligence. * * * The evil genius of this place has artfully combined the the grossness of primitive sensuality with the gilded refinement of modern licentiousness. The very music is described as obscene. * * The lessons taught at the Entertainers' Cafe were lessons in vice and the paid entertainers and the patrons who engaged in these orgies were the teachers. * * * What is to become of our young boys and girls if such entertainments are tolerated? It means the debauching of society, the corruption of the community and the destruction of the moral stamina of the nation. That these things could happen in

the fourth largest city in the world in a so-called civilized community where decency and religion are presumed to be supreme must cause the average Chicagoan to hang his head in shame."

The Court found the defendant guilty and imposed the maximum fine of \$200.00.

The defendant's counsel insisted upon a jury trial. The uncertainty of a jury verdict prompted the state's attorney to agree to abide by the decision in one case, if the case were tried by the Court. I fully agreed with him and the case went to trial before Judge Heap as stated. The other cases were nolle prossed according to agreement. We were anxious to get a court decision which would determine whether the statute under which the case was tried applied in cases of this kind.

This case had a temporary effect for the better upon many other cabarets, but gradually the lure of money prevailed and other cabarets resumed their vicious practices. With sufficient evidence against others, we prepared four cases and applied to the attorney general to abate them as common nuisances under common law procedure. Petitions for temporary injunctions were presented to the court and we expect permanent injunctions soon which will close these places for good.

The fight on the indecent and obscene cabaret has only just begun. If we can have the moral and financial support which these conditions merit, we believe the villainous cabaret of Chicago is doomed.

Immoral Shows

Another line of our endeavor has been against immoral shows, so-called "stags." We secured evidence against an organization known as the Red Devils which put on a show at one of our prominent hotels. The place was raided. Fifty-nine persons were arrested and convicted. We secured information that four other "stags" were to be held. We notified the plice. They prevented the shows.

Injunctions

During the year our investigators made 6890 personal calls. They secured evidence of immorality in 483 instances. This evidence, together with that obtained prior to May 1, 1921, not previously reported, involved 148 places. We notified the owners or agents of 87 places in an informal notice regarding the immorality on their properties. 35 owners or agents were negligent or defiant and we served them with the legal notice under the law. We have applied for and obtained 4 temporary injunctions and

2 permanent injunctions under the Injunction and Abatement Law, which continues to be our most effective weapon in fighting commercialized vice.

Recent investigations of the 148 places with which we have been dealing reveal the fact that in 72 places no further evidence was obtainable. In 44 places our investigators found new tenants or vacancies, and 32 places still need attention.

The temporary injunctions were against the following places:

3727 Grand Boulevard

This place was occupied by Claudia Woods, a notorious vice promoter. We have dealt with this woman in fourteen different places, and each time, when the owner was threatened with an injunction suit, she moved. In this particular instance she did not move until the injunction was issued, but did so immediately thereafter, purchasing a place on Michigan Avenue, and has become entrenched there. We have some evidence against the Michigan Avenue place, but not enough to warrant legal action. We are hoping that the permanent injunction will issue soon which will enjoin her from keeping any immoral house within the jurisdiction of the court.

1734 W. Van Buren St.

Known as the Harvard Hotel. This case first came before Judge Scanlan, and after many continuances and arguments on a technical demurrer, the demurrer was overruled and the injunction issued. Recently the bill in equity was heard by Judge Rush, and, after hearing the evidence, he issued a permanent injunction and fixed the bond at three thousand dollars which was duly filed by the owner.

2231 Cottage Grove Ave.

Kept by Sophie Dvorak. She is another old-time vice promoter. We have dealt with her in thirteen different places and she, like Claudia Woods, has succeeded in escaping by the moving process until last March when the temporary injunction was issued. The injunction had the immediate effect of putting her out of business at that place, and when the final bill is heard she will be enjoined from keeping any such place within the jurisdiction of the court.

2912 Prairie Avenue

This place is being conducted by Libby Martin, who has given us a great deal of trouble in years past. She has a police record.

We assisted in ousting her from a place as far back as 1914. She left the city and for a time plied her trade in Cleveland and in Detroit. Last year she returned to Chicago and established herself on Michigan Avenue. We obtained evidence, notified the owners, The Northern Trust Co., and she was immediately ousted. She then went to a place on Indiana Ave. We notified the police and she was again forced to move. She then established herself in the present place and we have succeeded in securing evidence sufficient to warrant an injunction which was recently issued. When the final bill is heard she will be enjoined from keeping a house of prostitution anywhere in Cook County.

The two permanent injunctions obtained during the year are:

1734 W. Van Buren Street, already referred to, and 9048 The Strand. We obtained a temporary injunction in the latter place last year as mentioned in our last annual report. The place was kept by a man and his wife who owned the property. They violated the temporary injunction and were each fined \$100 for contempt of court. The permanent injunction was issued November last and they were both restrained from further business of the kind in Cook County.

In the foregoing we have outlined the direct action of the committee in its operations through the injunction and abatement law.

Soon after May 1st, 1921, we procured evidence against the Boulevard Hotel at 2507 S. Michigan Avenue. We took the evidence to the attorney general and asked him if he would apply for an injunction under the common law. He did so and on July 22nd wrote a letter thanking us for the evidence and advising that after it had been corroborated an injunction was secured which closed the place against its use for any purpose for a year. The place is still under the ban of the law.

Pandering

A part of the work of the Committee of Fifteen is to assist the officials in prosecuting panders. During the year we have rendered much assistance in the prosecution of seven panders and two pimps, all of whom were convicted and fined a total of \$4,100. The panders were all imprisoned, six of them sentenced for a year and one for six months to the House of Correction.

Real Estate Owners

Real estate owners and agents are continuing to co-operate with the Committee. Only about

ten per cent of those receiving the first notice from the Committee are indifferent about the matter. Ninety per cent are actively assisting. I am trying to impress upon the real estate men that they really hold the key to this situation. If the owners and agents of real property in Chicago were properly organized and should declare war upon commercialized vice, they could reduce it to a minimum. They are appreciating the fact that it is neither good business nor good morals to rent property for immoral use.

Recently the Chicago Real Estate Board passed the following resolutions:

WHEREAS: The Chicago Real Estate Board recognizes the advantage of a high standard of morals in residential districts, not only for the well being of the city in general, but for the clientele of this Board in particular, and that houses of disrepute depreciate the value of property thus used, as well as the property adjacent thereto, and that they lower the morals of whole neighborhoods and of the entire city, and

WHEREAS: The Board recognizes the value of the work of the Committee of Fifteen in its efforts to protect the property we represent from use as places of prostitution, and believes that the work of that organization has been and is of great value to the owners of residential property in Chicago, therefore be it

RESOLVED: That this Board highly commend the work of the Committee of Fifteen and urge all owners of residential property and real estate agents to co-operate with the Committee in its efforts to dislodge undesirable tenants, and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Board hereby authorizes the president to appoint a committee of five of its members to formulate and carry out a plan of co-operation between the Chicago Real Estate Board and the Committee of Fifteen.

We are at present negotiating with the Board for closer and more effective co-operation.

Colored People Aroused

It is gratifying to know that the colored people are organizing in self-defense against the vicious conditions which exist to their detriment. Recently Quinn Chapel, one of the largest churches in Chicago, passed resolutions lamenting the lawless conditions as affecting the colored people and the absence of relief, and protesting against the vicious conditions, lack of support of

authorized officials, and calling upon law officials and citizens in co-operation with religious, social and fraternal associations to aid in breaking the strangle hold of the octopus which has been closing its coils about their people for personal gain.

The respectable colored people are expressing hearty approval of the work of the Committee of Fifteen. At the time of the attack upon the Entertainers' Cafe the negroes secured signatures to a protesting petition representing many thousands of colored people.

Crime Problem

The American Bar Association appointed a committee, consisting of Judge William B. Swaney of Chattanooga, Tenn., Hon. Charles S. Whitman, former Governor of New York, Charles H. Farnum of St. Paul, and Judge Marcus Kavanagh of Chicago, to inquire into the crime situation. While sitting in Chicago they invited your superintendent to present his views. He did so and concluded his remarks with six definite suggestions as follows:

FIRST: Some system should be evolved through which the bench can be rescued and kept free from commercialized politics.

SECOND: Some scheme should be devised through which unfit persons can be kept out of the jury box.

THIRD: The law should be changed so as to make it impossible for criminals to choose the judges who are to try them.

FOURTH: Prosecuting officials should be equipped so that cases would be properly prepared for trial.

FIFTH: Police officials, prosecuting attorneys and judges should join hands in finding a way to deal effectively with the breeding places of crime.

SIXTH: No stone should be left unturned in an effort to find some way to prevent the inexcusable and disastrous delays in trying criminal cases.

Public Addresses

At no time since I became your superintendent has there been such a desire on the part of churches, clubs, community centers, etc., to learn about the work of the Committee of Fifteen, as now. During the year it has been my privilege to address forty-seven public gatherings on the work of the Committee. Twenty-seven of the addresses have been delivered since January 1st. There is a keener interest in the work of the Committee of Fifteen manifested from various other sources.

Chicago Public Health Conference

The United States Public Health Service, co-operating with the Department of Public Health for this state, held an institute in Chicago in March, which was one of many held throughout the country. The main objective of these institutes is the solution of the problem of venereal diseases. Inasmuch as houses of prostitution are recognized as breeding places of these ailments, your Superintendent was invited to make an address on the "Repression of Prostitution through the law." He did so. An acknowledgment received from Dr. Isaac R. Rawlings, director of the Chicago Health Conference, dated March 15th, 1922, expresses sincere thanks for the address, and advises that it would soon be published in either the Illinois Health News, or the Social Hygiene Monthly, which are put out by the State Department of Public Health.

Legislation

During the last session of the Illinois Legislature several bills were introduced which would have affected our work, if they had passed. But only one bill survived. That was the amendment to 57-A-1 of the Criminal Code, making a male as well as a female person, who is an inmate of a house of prostitution, punishable by fine and imprisonment. This became law because the Governor failed to return it to the General Assembly during its session.

The law dealing with panders as amended in 1917 was attacked in the municipal court on constitutional grounds. The case was appealed and the Supreme Court sustained the law. Our attorneys aided materially in securing this decision.

Co-operation of State's Attorney

State's Attorney Crowe has co-operated in many ways, chiefly through the sending of notices to owners and agents in keeping with an arrangement made in 1921. During the year we have prepared for him 113 notices, which he has sent to owners and agents, based upon evidence obtained by ourselves and upon convictions obtained in the morals court, records of which have been submitted by assistant state's attorney, Mr. Souhrada, assigned to the morals court.

The results are: In thirty-seven of them no further evidence of immorality was obtainable, forty-four places were vacant or had new tenants. In thirty-two places further evidence of immorality was obtained which will require action when sufficient evidence warrants.

Co-operation of Chief of Police

Chief of Police Fitzmorris has responded to every call made upon him for assistance and has taken prompt action upon complaints submitted to him. The chief is doing splendid work for Chicago.

His attitude toward the Committee is stated in a recent letter from him to myself, as follows:

"I have your letter thanking me for the assistance in the Ritz-Carlton raid, and expressing commendation of Captain Enright in the performance of his duty.

Your organization made it possible to make the raid upon the Ritz-Carlton Cafe without violating the injunction restraining the Police Department. Such co-operation is highly commendable.

I am pleased to express my appreciation of the work the Committee of Fifteen is doing in Chicago."

The Juvenile Protective Association, the Chicago Law and Order League, the Illinois Vigilance Association, the Illinois Social Hygiene League, the Y. M. C. A., and other civic bodies, have given valued aid.

We have been able to render assistance upon call to the Y. W. C. A., the Social Service Departments of various hospitals, the United Charities and Social Service settlements.

Pilsen

Early in the spring of 1921, your superintendent was invited to assist in the organization of a community committee in that section of Chicago known as Pilsen. A committee was formed with your superintendent as honorary president. The object of the committee is to advance the welfare of the community by developing an earnest effort in promoting the honor of American manhood, purity of womanhood and the innocence of childhood. The results were immediate and beneficial. It is stated that since the organization was formed there has not been a case from that section in the morals court, where previously there were many. Through the efforts of this committee several disorderly places were put out of business. The committee has acknowledged the assistance rendered by the Committee of Fifteen, and we highly commend it for its service to the community.

China

Professor Graham Taylor, one of our Directors, is now making an extended journey in the far East. He has written us a most interesting letter from Canton, China, describing vice condi-

tions there and alluded to an awakening in opposition to gambling and commercialized prostitution. He requested that we send to certain officials and others such literature as might aid them. We have complied with his request.

Conclusion

In a city of three million people our budget is altogether inadequate to meet the demands for such service as we desire to render. The exasperating and disastrous delays, due to the inadequate system of court procedure, are expensive to the Committee of Fifteen. Take a case in point:

On October 29th, 1920, one Charles Indovino and his brother were indicted for rape. The bail was set at \$5,000. The case was in court twenty-four times before eight different judges, and in February, 1922, resulted in a disagreement of the jury. During this time the case was taken off call twice. Twice the bail was reduced, and once the bond was forfeited. Once there was a change of venue. The defendant was able to get thirteen continuances.

Every injunction case which we put through the court costs a great deal more than it should, but there seems to be no help for this at present.

I have already mentioned the co-operation of the Chicago Real Estate Board and of many other organizations more closely connected with our line of endeavor. There are few churches using the Committee of Fifteen to advantage. It is my hope that every church in Chicago will some time recognize that the Committee ought to and can be "its voice and executive force" to accomplish definite results toward the suppression of commercialized vice in this great city.

When the Y. M. C. A., the Y. W. C. A., the Civic Clubs, the Social Settlement organizations and every other combination of citizens, together with the churches, whose object is to strengthen the moral and spiritual fabric of our citizenry, use the Committee of Fifteen to accomplish practical results, and give it their moral and financial support as well, we will have gone far toward the accomplishment of our ultimate purpose—the suppression of commercialized vice in Chicago.

Respectfully submitted,

S. P. Thrasher,

Superintendent.

FINANCES

by

EDWARD L. RYERSON, JR.

Chairman, Finance Committee

During the year just closed, the Committee has received from contributions \$35,836.50. The total expenses for the year were \$32,487.76, leaving a balance on hand May 1st, 1922 of \$2,477.15.

The accounts have been duly audited by Marwick, Mitchell & Co., and I quote from their report:

"We have audited the accounts of receipts and disbursements of the Committee of Fifteen, Incorporated, Chicago, Illinois, for the year ended April 30, 1922, and now submit a classified summary thereof in the appended statement.

"The receipts from contributions and pledges as recorded on the books have been compared with the counterfoils of the receipt books. All cash reported as having been received has been properly accounted for.

"The disbursements have been verified by an examination of cancelled bank checks and supporting vouchers, properly approved. We verified the cash on hand by actual count, and the cash in bank by certificates from the National City Bank of Chicago, the depository of the Committee."

I am sure our supporters will be interested to know that more than one-half of the money contributed is in the form of annual pledges. The demands for the work of the Committee of Fifteen are much in excess of our ability to meet them. The minimum budget upon which we should be operating should be \$50,000. With the revival of business which is now in evidence we express the hope that that amount may be raised during the ensuing year.

The foregoing pages show in detail the activities of the Committee and the results accomplished.

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Playing with Dynamite

The Committee of Fifteen did a good job for public decency when it exposed conditions at the Entertainers cafe and the decision of Judge Heap should make certain that this resort remain a thing of the past. It was not only vicious in its influence. It was even worse. It was a powder magazine. It brought bad elements of the white and colored people together under inflammatory conditions and eventually that was certain to bring about a race collision, which might easily have the most terrible consequences.

What is true of the Entertainers cafe is true of other similar resorts called "black and tan." They are a continuing menace of the most serious character, especially to our reputable colored residents, who might be the chief sufferers from an outbreak of race passion. The Tribune has repeatedly called attention to this evil and we hope public opinion will make itself felt so emphatically that the city authorities will be compelled to clean up thoroughly.

—*Chicago Tribune.*

Jungle Dances in Chicago

Judge Arnold Heap of the Morals court naturally expressed astonishment, in summing up the case against a woman dancer in the notorious Entertainers' cafe, because public exhibitions of obscene contortions by throngs of men and women on the dancing floor of that resort were permitted nightly for a long period "under the very noses of the police force and under the eyes of the city administration." How orgies of the jungle could have been permitted in a public cafe in Chicago month after month, Judge Heap declared, "passes human intelligence."

Not quite. Human intelligence can well divine the reason.

The Daily News on various occasions has exposed and denounced this and other vile resorts. The police and the city administration knew of the conditions at the Entertainers' cafe, which Judge Heap so well describes: "The evil genius of this place artfully combined the grossness of primitive sensuality with the gilded refinement of modern licentiousness. The very music is described as obscene. The actions of the patrons were beastly, those of the enter-

tainers in this case grossly immodest and impure." But the police and the city administration did not interfere. Federal intervention and the efforts of the Committee of Fifteen brought this organized and highly commercialized obscenity into court.

What enabled the Entertainers' cafe to promote licentiousness openly, brazenly, "under the very noses of the police" and "under the eyes of the city administration?" Graft.

One woman who danced obscenely in the place has been fined \$200. The proprietor and others have still to be placed on trial. But who is the chief offender in permitting such an evil state of things as has been disclosed in court, under oath, by reputable witnesses? The public officer, whoever he was, who required or permitted the police to keep their hands off this place of abominations is, of course, the chief offender, and, as such, he should be sought out, exposed to public contumely and prosecuted.

—*Chicago Daily News.*

Routing Vice In Its Haunts

Recent raids upon cabarets have disclosed a situation in Chicago which is unspeakably evil.

Now, while the thought of the public is directed to crime, it is well it should take within its survey some of the schools in which criminals are made.

The impression exists among many respectable people, unfamiliar with cabaret life, that these places, in their more vicious guise, cater only to the adult depraved, to those mature lovers of vileness for whom little can be done. That is a mistake. Investigators, whose testimony cannot be disputed, tell us that it is a common thing to find girls and lads in their teens among the patrons of the worst of these resorts. The spectacle of these youngsters staggering drunk is one that has been witnessed frequently.

The illicit sale of liquor is the mainstay for revenue of such places of so-called entertainment. But it is not the worst form of evil which they foster. We read recently the unvarnished story of what happened on a certain night in a Chicago cabaret. It cannot be repeated. No printable account could come within a mile of telling the depravity to which performers and patrons sank. Youth of both sexes witnessed and applauded orgies unthinkable to the normal mind.

Upon these plague spots society, if it would save itself, must wage unceasing warfare. It is irrational to grow excited over corrupt labor leaders and bank bandits, and to remain indifferent to these breeding places for every sort of

wickedness. The man who builds a smudge to drive off mosquitoes, while he maintains a stagnant pool in his back yard, is intelligent compared with the community which spends millions to catch criminals, while it licenses incubators of iniquity.

Some of these places are being closed under the injunction law, thanks to the work of the Committee of Fifteen and the effective co-operation of Chief Fitzmorris. But we are informed there are many more which ought to be closed. The Committee of Fifteen would do a thoro job if the decent people of Chicago stood behind it and furnished it the means.

We wonder where the churches of Chicago are that they let this work be handicapped for lack of funds. If there was ever a job in which they should be interested; if there was ever a warfare which demanded their backing, it is this crusade for a clean city which the Committee of Fifteen wages the year around.

In considering the crime problem, THE POST is more interested in causes than in consequences. Our support will be given heartily to every wise and brave effort to deal with the criminal, but we will continue to insist that the real work is to get to the sources. Clean out the breeding places of crime, and multiply places which will nurture and propagate mental and moral and physical health.

—*Chicago Evening Post.*

will you kindly fill in one of these pledge cards, and invite a friend to do likewise with the other?

Pledge Card

I hereby agree to give to THE COMMITTEE OF FIF-

TEEN _____ Dollars,

to be used for current expenses in its work against Commercialized
Vice in Chicago during the fiscal year ending April 30, 1923.

I further agree to pay this pledge during the month of
_____, 19__.

Signed _____

Address _____

Date _____ 192__

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Contributions Deductible from Income Tax

Contributions to the Committee of Fifteen are deductible from incomes of Individuals in computing their income tax.

A letter from the Commissioner of Internal Revenue at Washington reads:

"The Committee of Fifteen is exempt from income tax under Subdivision 6 of Section 231 of the Revenue Act of 1918, and contributions made to it by individuals are deductible from gross income in accordance with the provisions of Subdivision 11 of Section 214 (a) of the same Act."

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1923

Annual Report

of the

Committee of Fifteen

for the year ended

December 31, 1923

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Report, Committee of Fifteen, Year of 1923	Supt. Samuel P. Thrasher

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Committee of Fifteen

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ALBERT W. SHERER.....Secretary

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ANNUAL MEETING AND LUNCHEON

The Annual meeting of the Committee of Fifteen was held in the ballroom of the Hotel La Salle on Saturday, January 19, 1924, and was preceded by a luncheon. Four hundred and twenty-five persons were present in the following groups:

Directors, 21 with 75 guests; contributors, 46; social service organizations, 26, represented by 103 individuals; clergymen, 12; members of the Association of Commerce, 39; representatives from the police department, 24, being principally captains and lieutenants; attorneys and aids from the corporation counsel's office, 14; assistant state's attorneys and secretaries, 23; representatives from the sheriff's office, 16; United States' district attorneys, 4; judges and guests, 8; Municipal Court bailiffs, 8; attaches of the Morals Court, 8; newspaper men, 8; and the Committee's investigators and office help, 16.

First Vice-President, Julius Rosenwald, presided and the program was as given in the following pages.

REMARKS BY VICE-PRESIDENT JULIUS ROSENWALD

I am going to preface my remarks by reference to the president of this organization, Mr. Henry P. Crowell. We all regret he cannot be here to preside. His health compels him to go away during the cold weather and he is down in Augusta, Georgia. He devotes himself and his pocketbook unstintingly to the work of this committee. Few men in similar position give the time, attention and devotion to the organization with which they are connected that Mr. Crowell gives to this one. He has done this for many years.

Our superintendent, Mr. Thrasher, and his splendid force, have worked for many years to make our committee the success it is. Mr. Thrasher is a fearless fighter for right and for righteousness. He is backed up splendidly by the men and women who work with him. It is impossible for him to please everybody, but he pleases the people who are interested in furthering our work. The fellows he does not please are those he is compelled to antagonize. It just occurred to me, while I was thinking how difficult it is to please everybody, to read you a little note that came to my desk a few days ago:

"Messrs. Sears, Roebuck & Co.,

"Sirs: The enclosed articles have proven unsatisfactory to my wife, who, I regret to inform you, is very hard to please.

"I notice they are entirely as represented in the catalog, and also just what was ordered, so it is no fault on your part. My wife is naturally very trying at times. Sometimes she does not know what she does want.

I am thoroughly disgusted with the way my wife finds fault with things, especially when she receives exactly what she orders.

"Now, in order to facilitate things, I leave the adjustment of this matter entirely to you by either sending me a check for the amount of these goods or else give me credit for these on your books and allow me for same when my own personal order is sent next year. Whatever suits you, suits me.

"Yours disgustingly,
"—————"

So you can see that it is difficult to please everybody.

The Committee of Fifteen was organized in 1908 and incorporated in 1911. Its purpose was definitely stated in its charter, to aid the public authorities in the enforcement of laws against pandering and to take measures calculated to prevent traffic in women.

The Committee has adhered to that purpose. We have not been turned to the right nor to the left no matter what the pressure has been; and, at times, it has been quite strong.

The Committee has been the means of dislodging tenants in more than two thousand houses of prostitution. The Committee has tried to aid public officials, but not until recently has it been possible to make our assistance very effectual. Of late, the public officials in all branches of the government in Chicago have recognized that the Committee of Fifteen can be and is of very great value in helping to enforce the laws. They gladly avail themselves of this aid.

Those who knew conditions in Chicago ten or twelve years ago are familiar with conditions today. I think no one will dispute that the Committee of Fifteen has played a large part in whatever curtailment of vice has been brought about.

The telegram from Mr. Crowell from Augusta, Georgia, addressed to me, reads as follows:

"Through you may I publicly express to Mayor Dever, State's Attorney Crowe, United States District Attorney Olson, Chief of Police Collins, my appreciation of the splendid co-operation they have given to the Committee of Fifteen during the past year? It merits high praise, which I gladly extend.

"H. P. CROWELL."

Before introducing the speakers, I want to thank our friends for turning out in such large numbers for our annual luncheon. Your coming today is gratifying evidence of increased interest in our work.

I regret very much that his Honor, the Mayor, was unable to be with us; he fully expected to be, but was detained at the last moment. We are very glad, on the other hand, that we have his representative. But before presenting him, I would like to say this: For thirty-nine years I have been a resident of the City of Chicago, and I believe today we have the best Mayor that Chicago has had in all those years.

He has been fearless in the enforcement of law; he has been constructive in everything for the good of this community, and it is a rare privilege to say for him what is in my heart every day. There is no man in public office for whom I have a higher regard and respect than for our Mayor. He has sent here a most excellent representative.

The city is indeed fortunate in having a man like Francis X. Busch as Corporation Counsel, and may I say that the Corporation Counsel is no exception to the others in the Mayor's Cabinet. He has accepted such assistance as the Committee of Fifteen has been able to render, and has expressed his appreciation. He represents Mayor Dever and the city administration and will now speak to you. I have the pleasure of presenting Francis X. Busch, Corporation Counsel.

The Citizen and the Law

Francis X. Busch, Corporation Counsel, after explaining Mayor Dever's absence and presenting his regrets, said:

"The subject on the card here to be responded to by Mayor Dever is 'The Citizen and the Law.' If the subject were changed to 'The Good Citizen and the Law' there would not be any subject to talk about. The Mayor's program of law enforcement, so-called, was a matter that was unwillingly forced upon him. It was his desire to devote his time and attention to the greater and more pressing constructive needs of Chicago. The vast street improvements that have been started, the terminal question, the traction question, and other big questions pressing for solution, demanded the best of his effort and time. But a situation existed so serious that had it gone on unchecked much longer, it is difficult to estimate just what would have been the result. Not content with the mere evasion of the law, the violation of the law, more or less open, this particular form of law breaking had assumed the magnitude of an organized syndicate, which involved the Police Department, and involved persons rather high in official life."

Mr. Busch went on to discuss Mayor Dever's vigorous campaign to root out the illegal liquor traffic in Chicago; and, coming to the work of the Committee of Fifteen, he continued:

"The work of the Committee of Fifteen is not directed essentially to the particular form of law breaking of which I have been talking; and yet all of you people who are interested in good government, and all of you who have tried to do your bit to alleviate the criminal conditions in Chicago, know that there is a

direct and unmistakable connection between the liquor traffic and the forms of vice that you are trying to eradicate, particularly when that traffic is an illegal traffic.

“The Committee of Fifteen has rendered the right type of co-operation to the City Hall. They have criticized constructively, and there isn't any official, be he a national, a state or a city official, who has any right to resent constructive criticism. I do not care who the official may be, or how earnest and well intentioned he might be, that official is not going to make a success of the administration of his office, whether it is an executive or a legislative office, unless he has the co-operation of his fellow citizens.

“It was said in an older day that eternal vigilance was the price of liberty. I believe it can be said, and said with truth today, that eternal vigilance is the price of good government. I do not care whether you have an administration of one party or of another party, and it does not make any particular difference about the qualities of the men, unless the men who are charged with the administration of the laws have the helpful co-operation of citizens and their constructive criticism, that administration cannot be a success. For that reason the present Mayor of Chicago, who does want to give a good administration, whose only desire in becoming Mayor was that he might leave a record of four years of good government to Chicago as a memory of his contribution to our City, welcomes constructive criticism, welcomes the help of every good citizen, welcomes the help of the Committee of Fifteen, and of every association which is honestly, sincerely and genuinely trying to make Chicago a better, a cleaner and a more decent place in which to live.”

The Value of Co-operation

Mr. Rosenwald, in introducing State's Attorney Robert E. Crowe, said that in almost every report Superintendent Thrasher had read to the Directors of the Committee of Fifteen for two or three years back, reference was made to the splendid co-operation he had received from the State's Attorney's office. Mr. Crowe spoke in part as follows:

"I desire to acknowledge at this time the debt of gratitude that the State's Attorney as the chief law enforcing officer of this County, owes to the Committee of Fifteen, and its capable superintendent, Samuel P. Thrasher. When I assumed the duties of my office, Mr. Thrasher, Mr. Crowell and I had a conference. I found from their statements that the work of suppressing vice in Cook County, outside of the assistance they got from the Police Department, rested almost entirely upon their shoulders and the shoulders of the members of the Committee of Fifteen; that when they secured evidence against disorderly houses they were compelled to serve their notices themselves, on their own stationery, and, if that was not effective, they had to personally conduct the lawsuit at the expense of the Committee.

"Following that interview, those conditions changed immediately. I regarded that as a part of the work of the State's Attorney, and a man was assigned from my office, a capable lawyer, to the Committee of Fifteen, to use the evidence they had gathered and to proceed against these places, and as a result our office has closed, from evidence turned over to us by Mr. Thrasher, up to December 1st of last year, 393 houses of prostitution in Cook County.

"I think the Committee of Fifteen starts at the right spot. They are cleaning out the nest where crime is bred, and where it finds shelter, comfort, succor and aid. I think the Crime Commission is doing a wonderful service here, and also all the other civic organizations working in complete harmony with the Mayor, with the Corporation Counsel's office, with the District Attorney's office, the Police Department and my office. The results that we have been able to obtain will astonish you.

"Every man charged with the enforcement of law in Cook County now, whether he be a city, federal or state officer, is working in complete and absolute harmony not only with each other, but he is working in complete harmony and co-operation with the societies such as the Committee of Fifteen.

"It is not a part of the duty of the State's Attorney's office to act as a policeman, but there have been times when I have felt called upon to assume those duties, both in the city and in the county. Fortunately, under the present situation that is no longer necessary. But during the period when I had to perform police service, our office personally raided 523 houses of prostitution or gambling houses. Out of that number we convicted 462 proprietors; 61 were discharged upon trial."

Organized Citizenship as an Aid to Law Enforcement

"It has been a pleasurable duty for the Committee of Fifteen to come into close touch with the United States District Attorney during the last year, and I am sure he will be able to tell us how it has worked out," said Mr. Rosenwald in introducing United States District Attorney Edwin A. Olson, who spoke on "Organized Citizenship As an Aid to Law Enforcement."

"If we did not have organized citizenship in Chicago, it would not be long, I imagine, before we would have a total breakdown of Government," said Mr. Olson. "Crime is organized, insistent and unscrupulous. Organized crime is at the heels of every law enforcement office in Chicago and elsewhere; and, if we did not have organizations of this kind, organized citizenship to neutralize that power, in a very short time Government would break down."

"Now, that is not very creditable to say about public officials, but it is the truth, just the same. I had occasion, last Tuesday evening, I think it was, to appear with the Superintendent of this Committee of Fifteen, at a meeting staged by the 8th Ward Law and Order League. They have done a great work in that ward with the assistance of the Committee of Fifteen and with the assistance of my office. They have closed up, in the 8th Ward, practically every dive in the ward. The last work that was done there was a raid on 21 places. We did it in thirty-five minutes. Seventeen of the cases have been tried and convicted, and four pending."

"If every ward in Chicago would have that

kind of an organization, which would do the kind of work the 8th Ward is doing, a lot of us would be out of work in a short time in this great city."

After a spirited discussion of his war on bootleggers, Mr. Olson continued:

"The Chief of Police is going to hold the lines in Chicago on his 7,000 policemen. We are going to put the brewers out of business, and when we put the brewers out of business we put the bootleggers out of business, and when the bootleggers are out of business the houses of prostitution will be out of business for good. All we ask is that the Chief continue as he has started, and which he will, to hold the lines. They may come back, Chief, and want to go back in the burglary game and the holdup game, but hold the lines and we will drive them out of Chicago. Certainly, when all the officers are co-operating, there should not be any question as to whether the two per cent criminal population of Chicago shall run the 98 per cent.

"I thank you for this opportunity of being here. I also wish to acknowledge the splendid work of the Committee of Fifteen. We are always short of help over there, and we want to get all the help you can send us, and all you have to do is to give us the evidence. We don't care who it is again, high or low, rich or poor, citizen or foreigner; we don't care who they are, they all get the same treatment, the same medicine out of the same bottle."

The Superintendent's Report for the Year 1923

"The people in the vice business will do anything to prevent interference with their work, but our superintendent recognizes none of the threats that come so frequently to him," said Mr. Rosenwald in introducing Superintendent Thrasher. "He goes ahead and tends to his business, and does it in splendid fashion. I only regret that not everybody in Chicago knows what his contribution has been to the community in keeping this terrible traffic in women under control."

Mr. Thrasher then read his report for 1923 as follows:

"I am indeed pleased to see such a representative gathering here today. If the question were asked, 'Has the Committee of Fifteen won a place in this community?' this meeting is the best answer.

"Here we have all branches of officialdom—the federal government, the state government, the county government, the city government—represented by the law-enforcing officials, social service organizations, churches and individuals who stand for those things which make for better government.

"I wish to express my appreciation to my Kiwanis brethren for their presence here today.

"I am here to tell briefly what the Committee of Fifteen did during 1923, but first allow me to express my sincere appreciation to Mayor Dever for his uncompromising stand for law enforcement. He is today the most outstanding figure in this country as an interpreter of official responsibility.

"You have heard the State's Attorney and I shall tell you how he has co-operated with the Committee of Fifteen.

"After hearing the United States District Attorney it is hardly necessary for me to refer to the occasions where our lines of operation have merged, but I shall quote from our official records as additional proof of what he has said to you.

"Statistics are dry and uninteresting, as a rule, but I must reduce accomplished results to statistical form in order to save time.

Facts

"During the year 1923 our investigators made 9,176 visits to suspected places of immorality. They secured evidence in 703 instances which involved 371 places. These places were dealt with as follows:

Notices

"Under the Injunction and Abatement Law, 180 notices were sent to or served upon owners of properties involved, which is the initial step under that law.

Forcible Entry and Detainer Proceedings

"Sixteen owners, upon receiving our notice, found they had tenants who were reluctant to move and forcible entry and detainer proceedings were instituted. Upon hearing in the courts, 14 tenants were ordered to vacate. One case was nonsuited and another case was dismissed.

Morals Court

"In 37 places, the Committee co-operated with the Police Department. Raids were made by them and inmates with keepers taken to the Municipal and Morals court. Total fines amounted to \$3,235. Four keepers were sent to the House of Correction; 1 for one year, 2 for six months each and 1 for three months. One keeper was placed on probation for six months. The persons in four places were discharged; 3 cases are pending and bonds were forfeited in 1 case.

Corporation Counsel

"Another method of co-operation with the city authorities was the furnishing of our evidence to the Corporation Counsel's office for use in having dissolved injunctions, issued under a former regime, against the Mayor of Chicago, the Corporation Counsel and the Police Department, from interfering with cabarets and other places. Such injunctions had been issued against 8 places where we had evidence that immoral conditions existed. Furnishing our evidence in the form of affidavits and testimony of the investigators in court, these injunctions have been dissolved by the court on application of Assistant Corporation Counsel Leonard J. Grossman.

"Francis X. Busch, Corporation Counsel, and his aids, have rendered every possible assistance.

State's Attorney

"The State's Attorney has co-operated to the fullest. He has assigned Frank Peska to handle the vice cases in Cook County. Based upon the evidence of our investigators, we have prepared for him 61 informal notices and 127 formal notices, which is the initial step under the law. The formal notices caused to be served by the State's Attorney were so effective that he was obliged to apply for only 8 injunctions, 5 of which were granted; 2 were stricken off call because of changed conditions on the properties, and 1 is still pending.

Federal Court

"Co-operating with the federal authorities, furnishing our evidence in the form of affidavits and personal testimony, raids and legal proceedings followed in the United States Court. Twenty-seven places were dealt with. Twenty-

four raids were made by the Federal Prohibition Department. Twenty-three temporary injunctions issued. Seventeen permanent injunctions followed. Criminal proceedings in 20 places followed, with fines totalling nearly \$3,000. The record is not complete.

“Two other places where temporary injunctions had issued the year before were this year enjoined, closing them for a period of one year. In 1 case there was only a criminal prosecution and the fines totalled \$400.

“Thus we were able to co-operate with the United States District Attorney and the Federal Prohibition Department in dealing with 27 places.

Pandering

“In addition to the foregoing, our special officer, Joseph L. Kinder, rendered assistance in the prosecution of 12 panders. Nine were sentenced to the House of Correction for one year and 3 for 6 months. Seven were fined \$1,000 each and 5 were fined \$300 each.

Summary of Results

“Further visits to the 371 places against which evidence of immorality had been obtained revealed the fact that 224 of them were found to be vacant; new tenants were living in 56 of the places, and no further evidence of immorality was obtainable in 52 places. Evidence was obtained in 39 places requiring further attention at the hands of the Committee.

“You have in the foregoing an unvarnished story of the accomplishments of the Committee of Fifteen for the year 1923. Many of the things accomplished would not have been done by the officials mentioned but for the assist-

ance rendered by the Committee of Fifteen, and much of the work done by the Committee could not have been done without the splendid co-operation of these officials.

“During the ten years of my service for the Committee of Fifteen, many of our investigators have been arrested. I was arrested on a charge of trespass because I caused the arrest of the keeper of a disorderly resort. They claimed damages in the sum of \$10,000. How they expected to collect it from me is somewhat of a mystery.

Attacks On Our Men

“Three of our men are now under bonds awaiting trial—one for manslaughter. He killed a negro in order to save his own life. Another is accused by a self-confessed criminal of being a party with him in a confidence game. The other is charged by a keeper of a notorious black-and-tan resort with extortion.*

“I refuse to accept the statements of prostitutes and criminals who accuse our agents. The cases against them must be tried before a competent tribunal.”

* Since the annual meeting and the preparation of the foregoing, two of the men referred to have been vindicated by a competent judicial tribunal; one of them acquitted after trial, and the other, who was held to the grand jury, the grand jury refused to indict.

Pledge Card

I hereby agree to give to THE COMMITTEE OF FIF-

TEENDollars,

to be used for current expenses in its work against Commercial-
ized Vice in Chicago during the ensuing year ending December
31, 1924.

I further agree to pay this pledge during the month of

....., 19.....

Signed.....

Address.....

Date....., 192.....

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I further agree to pay this pledge during the month of

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Signed.....

Address.....

Date....., 192.....

EXCERPTS FROM SPEECHES

FRANCIS X. BUSCH,

Corporation Counsel of the City of Chicago.

The Committee of Fifteen has rendered the right type of co-operation to the City Hall. They have criticised constructively, and there isn't any official, be he a national, a state, or a city official, who has any right to resent constructive criticism.

ROBERT E. CROWE,

State's Attorney for Cook County, Illinois.

I desire to acknowledge at this time the debt of gratitude that the State's Attorney as the chief law-enforcing officer of this County owes to the Committee of Fifteen.

* * * As our distinguished Corporation Counsel has rightly said, no public official can succeed in the discharge of his duty without the co-operation and the moral support of decent men and women.

EDWIN A. OLSON,

United States' District Attorney.

If we did not have organized citizenship in Chicago, it would not be long, I imagine, before we would have a total breakdown of Government. Crime is organized and insistent and unscrupulous. Organized crime is at the heels of every law-enforcement officer in Chicago and elsewhere; and, if we did not have organizations of this kind, organized citizenship to neutralize that power, in a very short time government would break down.

SAMUEL P. THRASHER,

Superintendent for the Committee of Fifteen.

Many of the things accomplished would not have been done by the officials mentioned but for the assistance rendered by the Committee of Fifteen, and much of the work done by the Committee could not have been done without the splendid co-operation of these officials.

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Sixteenth Annual Report

of the

Committee of Fifteen

for the year ended

December 31, 1924

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Contributions to the Committee of Fifteen are deductible from income of Individuals in computing their income tax.

A letter from the Commissioner of Internal Revenue at Washington reads:

“The Committee of Fifteen is exempt from income tax under Subdivision 6 of Section 231 of the Revenue Act of 1918, and contributions made to it by individuals are deductible from gross income in accordance with the provisions of Subdivision 11 of Section 214 (a) of the same Act.”

ANNUAL MEETING AND LUNCHEON

The sixteenth annual meeting of the Committee of Fifteen was held in the ballroom of the Hotel LaSalle on Saturday, January 17, 1925, and was preceded by a luncheon.

Aside from the fact that nineteen of the Committee's directors reserved tables the following also made reservations:

The State's Attorney was assigned 3 tables; the Chief of Police, 3; the Sheriff, 2; the Health Department, 3; the Federal Officials, 1; Corporation Counsel, 1; Morals Court, 1. The Eighth Ward Law and Order League reserved 1 table; the Illinois Vigilance Association, 1; the Better Government Association, 1; the Kiwanis Club, 2; the Oakland Business Men's Association, 1; the Chicago Tuberculosis Institute, 1; the Chicago Woman's Club, 1; the Woman's Church Federation Protectorate, 1; the Sarah Hackett Stevenson Memorial, 1, and there were representatives from the Juvenile Protective Association; the Chicago Law and Order League; the Illinois Women's Athletic Club; the Wieboldt Foundation; the Henry Booth Settlement; the Jewish Social Service Bureau; the Central Howard Association, as well as other social service organizations. Several judges and clergymen were also present, newspaper men and the Committee's investigators and office staff.

Rush C. Butler presided and the program was as given in the following pages.

REMARKS BY RUSH C. BUTLER,

Presiding

The big point the Committee of Fifteen desires to make in its annual meeting today is that its work has been successful because the Committee is a prosecuting agency. It is a body militant. The Committee of Fifteen fights. It not only investigates, and reports, but it follows up its work in these particulars by instituting civil proceedings on its own account and aiding the authorities in the institution of both civil and criminal proceedings based upon the Committee's investigations. As a result of its fighting policy, commercialized vice in the city of Chicago has been greatly minimized. The segregated districts have been done away with entirely. Houses of prostitution are now so few, so scattered and so entirely unprotected, that they afford no opportunity for the commercialization of vice. The dealer in white slaves has been practically put out of business; he has no market-place, and no market, such as are afforded by segregated districts. Graft and corruption in the police department have been greatly lessened as a result of the Committee's efforts. The Committee is especially indebted to United States District Attorney Olson, State's Attorney Crowe and Chief of Police Collins for their active co-operation in law enforcement. In all the work the Committee has asked these men to do, in their official capacity, they have responded whole-heartedly and courageously.

Official Co-operation

"I am pleased to introduce as the next speaker, a gentleman known well and favorably to all of you, an able jurist, an efficient executive, an outstanding citizen of our community, Judge Harry Olson, Chief Justice of the Municipal Court of Chicago."

Judge Olson said in part:

"I want to say that the Municipal Court welcomes the activities of a committee such as yours. I consider it is a help to the State's Attorney and a help to the courts to have cases prepared before they come in, and that is what the Committee of Fifteen does.

"Mr. Thrasher has been at the head of this organization in looking after its court business and has had considerable experience before he ever came to Chicago in this same line of work, and he knew what evidence was. He is a fearless man and he has the good sense not to be fighting with officials. If he did not like what a judge did, he did not say anything to the judge, he told me about it, and if warranted he got another judge. There was nothing in the papers about it, but Samuel Thrasher was succeeding where he deserved to. He never had any fixed idea, sometimes he thought defendants ought to be punished severely, and sometimes he thought that another policy was better. He was as open-minded as the courts on what should be done. I had noticed that his witnesses were capable. They did a good job of investigating. They stood their ground on the witness stand. They stood the cross examination. They knew what they knew, and more than any other witnesses from any other organization that has ever appeared in our courts. Mr. Thrasher picked his witnesses with great care, intelligent, capable, courageous men to do his investigating, and therefore the State's Attorney was able to make some progress in court.

"And then he has been shrewd enough to get a prosecutor who would fight. They generally all fight, but some will fight when there is a plea of guilty, but not otherwise. (Laughter)

"Now, the vice problem is a very difficult one. I have had something to do with it for thirty years in Chicago. I was on the Vice Commission. I suggested the Otis injunction some years ago. I talked to two young lawyers and I told them, if you will file this it will

make you state's attorney. But they failed to see their opportunity. Finally I asked Robert McMurdy to file the first injunction against a disorderly house based on property rights. We did not have the law we have now, so we had to base the injunction on property rights. Several people wrote that application for an injunction. McMurdy wrote the legal part of it, Dr. Evans the medical, and we thought of having Dr. Gunsaulus write the exordium, but we finally decided it was not wise to do that. I wrote the political part, and the political part was this: I set up in the bill for an injunction that the then Chief of Police in Chicago had undertaken to set aside the state laws in the city of Chicago, within certain limitations, creating a segregated vice district. I think the Chief of Police did that from good motives. He thought it was a good idea to put vice in one place so he would know where he had it. He did not know he was setting aside state and city laws and therefore was guilty of a crime himself, because he was ordering four or five thousand policemen to violate the law of the state of Illinois, inside of a certain district. The new mayor, Mr. Harrison, appointed Mr. McWeeny Chief of Police, and told him to carry out the rules of the former Chief of Police, and that got the Mayor into it, and it got the new Chief of Police into the same position that the old Chief of Police was. I set up the state laws in that bill for an injunction, and the ordinances, and I showed where the Mayor and the new Chief of Police were following in the same footsteps as the old ones, and that put them in a compromising situation. I sent a copy of the bill to the Corporation Counsel marked so he could see what it was all about. Of course, the administration suddenly believed that Dr. Flexner's Book holding that we should abolish the vice district was a good thing. They had become converted suddenly when they saw that bill. Because of that it was possible to close every house over the head of the Mayor, Chief of Police and State's Attorney. I called upon State's Attorney Wayman, and I said, 'You got by in failing to close Sunday saloons, but you will not in this case.' He said he could not stop it, but I said, 'Here is an injunction that will close house after house.' He said, 'I have got Inspector Hunt out now getting evidence on one hundred houses, and inside of three weeks I will present it to the grand jury.' So we filed only one injunction, the Otis, and Mr. Wayman later closed all the houses in Chicago.

"That is how it happened, and one of these two lawyers I appealed to could have been

state's attorney if he had acted as McMurdy did. We had to go about it in that round-about way to end the vice district.

"The celebrated Vice Commission tried to do it by their report, but they could not; the report was cast aside by the new administration as so much waste paper. The Otis injunction accomplished what the Vice Commission could not, and this Committee of Fifteen is the outgrowth of that commission and has been doing good work since that time. It has had the good sense to work with the courts, the State's Attorney, and the Police Department. It does not pay for officials to denounce each other without proof. If they know what they are talking about, all right. I do not believe these organizations should hesitate to criticize them. I think one of their functions is to criticize judges and state's attorneys, keep in touch with policemen, and so forth, but they should go to the head of the department first and work with the organization if they can. We are not getting anywhere organizing committees of one thousand to do one thing and another and in taking the responsibility off the officials. I believe in putting responsibility on the officials; (applause) you can work inside the law. These officials are elected to enforce it. If the State's Attorney does not do his duty, then get the Attorney General from Springfield up here. It is a part of his duty to aid and assist the State's Attorney's office in every county in this state, and that includes Cook County. That is his official business. (Applause) That is his duty and why should not these committees, if they feel any officials are falling down, keep on going higher and higher, no matter how big the bug there is a bigger bug to bite them. (Laughter) Whenever the Attorney General will not do his duty, then the Legislature can create a Lexow committee. One thorough job and you won't have to do it but once in a generation.

"I believe in working inside with the officials. Let officials see their duty, put it up to them, and if you find then they will not do it from laziness or incompetence or for any other reason, keep on going higher up until you do get it done. You can go to the Supreme Court itself with lawyers; you can ask the Supreme Court to disbar them, and it is their duty to do it, under certain circumstances. They are officers of the Supreme Court, and the Supreme Court has the duty, and it should take their licenses away from lawyers who connive with crime, in office or out; they can have their licenses taken away from them. Just get the proof, and Mr. Thrasher knows how to get it,

so you do not need to worry about officials. Work with them, not against them, and they will help you straighten things out.

"I have had many complaints about officials. When I first went to the Municipal Court I used to get complaints about judges. I run down every case, sympathetic always to the complainant, and I was disappointed so many hundreds of times that I got very cautious about telling a judge there was a complaint about him.

"Another matter of great importance. Take this Levine case prosecuted by your Committee. The criminal lawyers have gone to Springfield and they have induced the Legislature to pass a law so that after a man is convicted he can give bail in the same court in which he was convicted until the case is heard in the Supreme Court. Think of it. It used to be he had to go to the Court of Appeals or Supreme Court with a showing that there had been error in his case, and if they made that showing they had the right to give bail in an extraordinary manner, but now the criminal lawyers have introduced a bill in Springfield, that as a matter of right they have the right to give bail in the trial court, so in this Levine case that the State's Attorney prosecuted for the Committee of Fifteen in my court, in which I gave him a fine of five hundred dollars and a year in the House of Correction, he came in to get bail. I said, 'No, you can go to the upper courts to get bail,' and his lawyers produced a statute passed in 1919 when we were all busy, and he showed me that he had the right to bail, and I gave him bail, and he went out the door like that, laughing at the whole procedure; it was a joke, and he roamed the streets for nearly a year before the Supreme Court handed down an affirmance, and then he had not been down in jail very long until I got a notice from the Pardon Board that he will apply for a pardon next Tuesday. I expect to meet the gentlemen any day. (Laughter.) Let's have some end to a lawsuit for the public, let's have it ended, and that must be done before we get anywhere.

"This vice problem is a very difficult matter. I notice that some of our judges have followed the suggestions of many good women, that girls ought not to be fined heavily because then they have to go out on the streets and ply their trade and make more money, and it is a bad thing for the women. They have fined lightly for another reason, because an unfortunate woman stands before them, a woman in most instances who is affected with venereal disease, who is sick and disordered and also a

woman of limited intelligence, because it is from that class they are mostly recruited. That being so, a judge confronted by a feeble-minded woman, confronted by a woman suffering from venereal disease, dislikes to send her for a year to the House of Correction. You put yourself in that judge's place. Sometimes we put in judges who give larger sentences. My own theory, and Mr. Thrasher's also, has been for some time that these penalties ought to be larger than they are, in spite of the fact that the woman is diseased, in spite of the fact that she is feeble-minded. We feel that if she was put in the House of Correction for a longer period she will be off the streets and affecting less men and be better off herself, and therefore we have fined them, given them longer sentences than these women approve.

"To believe that that should be done is one thing and to sit in court and apply it to one sick woman after another who is feeble-minded is another question, and when the good women belonging to the Juvenile Protective Association and others feel that these larger fines are a bad thing these judges listen to these good women. I would rather have you hear what a judge whom I put there has to say, a man experienced in public affairs, of good judgment,—I put Mr. Padden there, who has been in the Corporation Counsel's office and relied upon for larger things in a legal way, a man of broad experience,—and I notice that he followed in a measure the policy of other judges who had sat there.

"I defer more to the experience of such men, and I am not urging upon them too strongly my own views, and I do not try to do it; I let them work it out the best they can.

"Now, we have tried a good many things and some day Mr. Thrasher hopes and I hope we will try another method and put them away for longer periods.

"Another thing, the courts need stenographers, and we are going to ask the judges of the Municipal Court to vote an appropriation for stenographers in every branch of the Municipal Court of Chicago. (Applause) And then we will know whether the prosecutors are prosecuting, whether certain criticism is justified and just what the judge's attitude may be. We need a record of every case. The court needs it for his own protection for the slanders that are uttered against him, for the libels that are published. The court has to fight its own battle. When a certain grand jury was under the domination of a former state's attorney of Cook County, one of his ways of intimidating the court was to get the

grand jury to condemn the court, and on one such instance he came into the court with a condemnation wholesale of our court. I learned from one of the grand jurors the animus of that, and I applied the law, and so we put it up to the judge of the Criminal Court that he himself was guilty of criminal libel if he allowed that report of the grand jury to remain upon the records of the court, and not until the judge himself saw that he would be sued for criminal libel and for civil libel by every judge of the Municipal Court did he strike that from the record in self-defense, and the grand jury was subject to the penalties of the criminal law, and to penalties of the civil law, and I did all I could to induce the judge who was particularly harmed to bring an action, because some of the men who had violated the law, who had libeled him were millionaires, some of them, and he never would have had to practice law if he had had the moral courage to bring that suit. I suspected there was more to that case than he was willing to admit because he did not bring that suit, and the rest of us did not care to bring a suit because when the man especially involved did not bring it it would not look well for us to do it, so it was not done. A grand jury cannot libel the court, much less anybody else, so that the court will defend itself."

Getting the Evidence

"Another official from whom we have received the best kind of help possible, not only personally but through his assistants, is the present State's Attorney of Cook County, Mr. Crowe," said Mr. Butler.

"He has spoken to you folks in the past and told you of his work. The gentleman whom we put in charge of the class of cases that we deal with was given that office two years ago and in all of that time we have found him as faithful to his chief and to the duties assigned to him as we could expect any man to be. He has been loyal and intelligent in his handling of cases, and even courageous. It gives me great pleasure to present to you at this time Mr. Frank Peska of the State's Attorney's office."

Assistant State's Attorney Peska said:

"I appreciate this privilege of saying a few words concerning the activities of the Committee of Fifteen from the standpoint of a prosecutor assigned to the Vice Department of the State's Attorney's office.

"One of the chief duties of a prosecutor is to present evidence for judicial determination, and on an occasion of this kind, in the presence of so many people who are interested in law enforcement, I do not think it amiss to make a few observations on the law of evidence and court procedure.

"Almost every layman has his own ideas of what constitutes evidence, until he has some experience on the witness stand, and then wonders why the court struck out so much of his evidence that he considers very important, and why his lawyer did not ask him about certain things that he also deems very important.

"A noted writer on judicial literature on various legal subjects, Professor Jones, in his latest work, 'Commentaries on the Law of Evidence,' says that it does not always follow merely because a fact is logically relevant that it is therefore admissible in evidence. In other words, facts may be logically relevant, but not legally so. Now, the evidence that forms the basis of prosecuting vice cases comes principally from two sources. First, you get the evidence that is obtained by private investigators connected with the different law enforcing organizations. Secondly, we get the

evidence as obtained by police officers in the discharge of their duties. Now, the police officers are at a considerable disadvantage in getting evidence in vice cases. The principal reason is they soon become known to the denizens of the underworld who watch their movements so as to avoid detection. Then when the raiding of a disorderly house is about to take place, upon the approach of the police officers, the inmates and the keepers of the house usually run under cover, and the result is the police officers conducting the raids have no positive evidence. All we find there is circumstances. Now, these circumstances may or may not be sufficient to substantiate your case, and as far as circumstantial evidence is concerned, we have noticed that some judges can maintain a judicial ignorance of matters that any ordinary high school boy would not question.

"On the other hand the investigator for any organization is in a much better position. He can enter the alleged disorderly flat, he can mingle around with the patrons; he can watch the movements of the people in the place. He can converse with the keeper and the inmates. He can spend some time in the place getting the names and other data, which is very valuable and which go very far in substantiating the charge. So that is one advantage that the private investigator has over a police officer.

"The investigators for the Committee of Fifteen have demonstrated their efficiency in presenting evidence that meets all the strict requirements of the courts. They are intelligent and well trained. The judges and the jury have found them to be creditable witnesses and have all times deemed them worthy of belief. That accounts for the many convictions that are obtained by the Committee of Fifteen when they undertake to prosecute a case. At no time during my experience with the investigators for the Committee of Fifteen have I ever seen an investigator wilfully omit any material facts while on the witness stand, nor have I ever seen him change his testimony as to any important details. The investigators work under the direction of Mr. Samuel P. Thrasher, who encourages and trains them in their work.

"From my experience with Mr. Thrasher, the Superintendent of the Committee of Fifteen, and the investigators, I should say that Mr. Thrasher has a keen insight into the law of evidence and judicial procedure.

"Now, to know substantive law is one thing and to understand evidence and judicial procedure is a matter which takes special training and years of experience to master that subject.

"The Committee as a whole has demonstrated its efficiency; it has demonstrated its usefulness in its stamping out of vice and the prosecution of panderers.

"The Committee of Fifteen is engaged in constructive work of a kind that is useful and appreciated by public officials.

"The Committee of Fifteen has at no time become an adjunct to any political machine. It has always stuck to its own knitting in its own way.

"Another thing that is present to my mind that came to me as the result of the prosecution of vice cases is that very seldom you will find nowadays that a woman is convicted or charged with being a keeper or an owner of a house of prostitution. This phase of the activity seems to have undergone a sort of revolutionary change in that the so-called 'madames' have been forced out of the business and their place taken by men. Of course, they will employ a woman cashier who makes her accounting to her superiors, who may or may not visit the premises, and then again they may be brought into court charged as keepers, but they are not in reality the real keepers or the owners of the disorderly houses.

"The report of the Committee of Fifteen says nothing about its activities outside of the city of Chicago. The Committee of Fifteen has always been active in obtaining evidence on a few places that existed outside of the city, and in this connection and in cooperation with Sheriff Hoffman there has been considerable activity in closing up the disorderly road-houses. By closing them up, I mean closing the door up physically and tacking a sign on it that the place has been closed by order of Sheriff Hoffman.

"I will make my talk short, and in concluding will say that the city of Chicago, like any other city, has its problems of vice and crime, but the problems that confront the city of Chicago are no different from the problems that confront any other city. The people here will work them out in their own way, and it is not necessary to go to any other city to obtain advice on the subject.

"The spirit of Chicago is not dead. That spirit that was possessed by that sturdy New England pioneer who through dangers and difficulties crossed the intervening plains, showed dauntless courage and started the building of the greatest of all the mid-western cities—Chicago. That spirit is still with us, and in the words of the poet Chicago 'stands in hope and might, her shield is truth, her sword is right.' "

Co-operation with the Committee of Fifteen

"The Committee also receives co-operation from organizations in various parts of the city," said Mr. Butler, "and among the organizations that co-operate with us is the Eighth Ward Law and Order League. The secretary of that organization is here in the presence of the Rev. J. C. Anderson, pastor of the Park Manor Methodist Church. He will speak to us on the co-operation between the Committee of Fifteen and local law enforcing agencies. Mr. Anderson."

Mr. Anderson said:

"Several months ago the conditions of our ward seemed to make it necessary that an organization of some kind should be brought into existence to fight lawlessness and vice which were planting themselves in our community.

"The Eighth Ward Law and Order League was organized for that purpose. During the few months of our existence more than thirty places have been closed and kept closed. These places were mainly smoke shops, soft drink parlors, bootlegging joints and such like. We have a few others yet to clean up. We are informed by those in a position to know, that our ward is one of the cleanest and freest from vice in the city.

"In our court cases we have had a record of one hundred per cent; not having lost a single case thus far. We do not assume all the credit for this splendid showing. Early in our career a kind Providence brought us in touch with the Superintendent of the Committee of Fifteen. We found him to be a man of rare judgment, skilled in experience and wise in counsel. We followed his advice; and to him and the splendid co-operation of the Committee of Fifteen we are indebted for our success.

"Our work is not all done yet but we hope to maintain that fine co-operative spirit of this committee until our ward is as free from vice as it is possible to make it."

Superintendent Thrasher's Report

"It pleases me to hear the tributes paid to Mr. Thrasher," said Mr. Butler.

"You know he has been with us since 1912, I think it was, and he has in that time gained an experience and a ripened judgment that stands the Committee in wonderful stead in all of its work. Mr. Thrasher will now present his report."

The superintendent's report was read by Mr. A. W. Sherer, secretary of the Committee, who introduced the reading as follows:

"Ladies and gentlemen: Our veteran superintendent has served the Committee of Fifteen faithfully for many years. Through the careful preparation of cases he has won the respect of the judges of Chicago; through his persistent following up of cases he has won the respect of the members and directors of the Committee of Fifteen and of the citizens of Chicago. He has also won the loyalty and affection of the men in his own force and of the directors of the Committee of Fifteen. I regret that due to a recent illness Mr. Thrasher has requested that I read his report for him today, as follows:

"During 1924 our investigators made 6,028 visits to places suspected of commercialized vice. They secured evidence in 599 instances which involved 267 places. These places were dealt with as follows:

NOTICES

"Under the Injunction and Abatement law, 74 notices were sent to or served upon owners of the properties involved, which is the initial step under that law.

FORCIBLE ENTRY AND DETAINER PROCEEDINGS

"Five owners, upon receiving our notice, found they had tenants who were reluctant to move and forcible entry and detainer proceedings were instituted. Upon hearing in the courts, the defendants in each case were ordered to vacate.

MORALS COURT

"In 19 places the Committee co-operated with the police department. Raids were made

by the police and inmates with keepers taken to the Morals Court. Total fines amounted to \$1,795.00. Three keepers were sent to the House of Correction; one for one year, one for three months and one for thirty days. One keeper was placed on probation for three years. The persons in 7 places were discharged and one case is pending.

CORPORATION COUNSEL

"Another method of co-operation with the city authorities was the furnishing of our evidence to the Corporation Counsel's office on two places where we had evidence that immoral conditions existed. Our evidence was furnished in the form of affidavits and testimony of the investigators in court. Criminal proceedings in one place followed with a fine of \$500.00 and one case is still pending.

STATE'S ATTORNEY

"The State's Attorney has co-operated to the fullest. He has assigned Mr. Frank Peska to handle the vice cases in Cook County. Based upon the evidence of our investigators, we have prepared for him 74 informal notices and 38 formal notices, which is the initial step under the law. The formal notices caused to be served by the State's Attorney were so effective that he was obliged to apply for only 8 temporary injunctions.

FEDERAL COURT

"Co-operating with the federal authorities, furnishing our evidence in the form of affidavits and the testimony of our investigators, raids and legal proceedings followed in the United States Court. 20 places were dealt with. 6 raids were made by the Federal Prohibition Department. 2 temporary injunctions issued which were soon followed by permanent injunctions, closing these places for one year. Criminal proceedings in one place followed with a fine of \$200.00 and thirty days in the House of Correction and four cases are still pending.

"Fourteen other places where temporary injunctions had issued were enjoined, closing them for a period of one year.

"Thus we were able to co-operate with the United States District Attorney and the Federal Prohibition Department in dealing with 20 places.

PANDERING

"In addition to the foregoing, our special officer, Joseph L. Kinder, rendered assistance in the prosecution of 5 panders. One was sentenced to the House of Correction for one year and four for six months. Four were fined \$300.00 each and one was fined \$500.00.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

"Further visits to the 267 places against which evidence of commercialized vice had been obtained revealed the fact that 85 of them were found to be vacant; new tenants were living in 43 of the places, and no further evidence of immorality was obtainable in 71 places. Evidence was obtained in 68 places requiring further attention at the hands of the Committee.

"You have in the foregoing an unvarnished story of the accomplishments of the Committee of Fifteen for the year 1924. Many of the things accomplished could not have been done by the officials mentioned but for the assistance rendered by the Committee of Fifteen, and much of the work done by the Committee could not have been done without the splendid co-operation of these officials.

POLICE

"We have co-operated amicably with the police department as evidenced by the following:

SPECIAL CASES—STEVE MACKEY

"Steve Mackey, who was ousted by the owner from the property at 2922 Prairie Ave., after we had served formal notices under the Injunction law, was located at 3843 Cottage Grove Ave. We secured evidence at that place and he was moved again. He then located at 3848 Cottage Grove Ave., and conducted his immoral resort in a most brazen manner. In taking the matter up with the police of the Stanton Ave. Station they decided to make continuous raids, and Steve Mackey, his wife, inmates and others were brought into the morals court almost daily for a period of two weeks, resulting in Steve Mackey being fined by Judge Padden \$300 and costs and sentenced to three months in the House of Correction. His wife was also fined \$200 and costs. The man roper was fined \$200 and costs. One girl inmate was fined \$5 and costs, and two other women were sent to Lawndale Hospital for an indefinite term on

account of their being diseased. Judge Padden also fined the keeper and inmates of the Granville Hotel, 3801 Grand Blvd., a total of \$1048, and sentenced the keeper to the House of Correction for six months.

SPECIAL CASES—THE ENTERTAINERS CAFE

"It will be remembered that this Committee successfully prosecuted and caused the closing under Injunction of the notorious black and tan resort known as the Entertainers Cafe. It was closed for a year.

"Soon after the Injunction expired, it was leased to another man who kept it fairly respectable for a while and then it began to take on the semblance of the old resort and got so bad that it was necessary to move against it the second time. The case was desperately fought but once more we succeeded in having the proprietor convicted and he was sent to jail and fined \$200. He was also fined \$500 for contempt before Judge Reiner, the case being prosecuted by the Corporation Counsel. The place was again locked up by Federal Injunction for another year.

SPECIAL CASES—THE RADIO INN

"More than a year ago, we succeeded in having the proprietor of the Radio Inn arrested and he was convicted by a jury and sentenced to pay \$500 and go to jail for a year. He appealed the case which has been under advisement in the Supreme Court since. A few weeks ago a decision was handed down sustaining the lower court. A capias was issued and the proprietor is now serving his sentence of one year in prison and is compelled to pay a \$500 fine.

TEN YEARS AGO AND NOW

"It was my privilege to report to the annual meeting in 1914 as follows:

'The Committee has directed its efforts chiefly to the work of destroying market places for traffic in women. We have a list of five hundred eighteen (518) places where immorality was carried on more or less openly one year ago, or since, which are now closed or against which we can obtain no evidence. This list includes seventy-three (73) disorderly saloons where vice was prevalent and four hundred forty-five (445) houses of ill-fame or assignation.'

"A few statistics from the Morals Court ten years ago and now might not be amiss:

"We find that ten years ago there were approximately thirteen thousand cases taken to the Morals Court during the year. During the past year there have been approximately twelve thousand. But it should be borne in mind that the population of Chicago has increased approximately one million in the last ten years. We find that practically one-third of the cases ten years ago were discharged. During the last year practically two-thirds have been discharged. Fifty-five percent of the persons arrested in 1914 were fined. Only thirty percent of the persons taken to the Morals Court in 1924 were fined. We find that 740 of the persons arrested were sent to jail or the House of Correction during the year 1914, and only 349 during the year 1924.

"This striking increase of acquittals during the year of 1924 is amazing and due to one of two things: Either the police officers who conducted raids have failed to furnish adequate evidence to the courts or the courts have made the requirements for convictions more strict.

"These few facts taken from the records of the Morals Court reveal a situation which is significant in view of all that is being said about the increase of vice in Chicago.

"By persistent effort on the part of the officials and with such co-operation as those officials have had with various organizations, it is plain to be seen that during the last ten years commercialized vice has been materially reduced in Chicago.

"Without reflecting upon the Judges who have presided over the Morals Court, I want to say that they have been following a policy in that court which, in my judgment, can be greatly improved, and I predict that before Judge Olson's term of office expires, he will be successful in finding a Judge to preside over that court who will change its established policy and who will realize his responsibility to this community to the extent that he will put away the keepers of houses of ill fame, prostitutes, pimps and panders where, for a time at least, they cannot further spread the loathsome diseases which are such a menace to the community. It is a known fact that all prostitutes are or have been diseased and to turn them back upon the public where they will continue to ply their trade is unquestionably wrong. The law provides for one year in prison and a fine of \$200 for every prostitute who is convicted. And many of them escape with a fine of from one to ten dollars which, in my judgment, accomplishes nothing.

"We all hope that the government will provide an institution where these women will re-

ceive the proper medical attention and be cured of the diseases with which they are afflicted. But in the absence of such an institution, they should be put away in any event.

DR. BUNDESEN

"Senator Royal S. Copeland, former Health Commissioner of New York, has charged our people with being afraid to look the truth in the face.

"Be this as it may, I am pleased to note that we have a health commissioner in Chicago who dares to tell the truth and who has told it in a pamphlet dealing with sex hygiene which is being widely circulated through some philanthropically inclined citizens and should be read by everybody. As its title indicates, it is everybody's problem. It is an appeal that appeals.

"Not only is Dr. Bundesen entitled to the gratitude of the community for issuing this pamphlet which speaks the truth as it ought to be spoken, but he is to be commended for what the pamphlet does not say as well. It does not recommend books and text books which contain matter which should not be read by anybody as the poison some of them contain more than offsets the good to be accomplished in the teaching of sex hygiene. Dr. Bundesen has done well to leave these references out of his pamphlet.

CONCLUSION

"The Committee of Fifteen, aside from pursuing its usual course of investigating and prosecuting as occasion requires, is pleased to have been able to aid the public officials of the city and county, thus making our work constructive and helpful."

Pledge Card

I hereby agree to give to THE COMMITTEE OF FIF-

TEEN

Dollars,

to be used for current expenses in its work against Commercial-
ized Vice in Chicago during the ensuing year ending December
31, 1925.

I further agree to pay this pledge during the month of

....., 19.....

Signed.....

Address.....

Date....., 192.....

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31, 1925.

I further agree to pay this pledge during the month of

....., 19.....

Signed.....

Address.....

Date....., 192.....

HON. HARRY OLSON

Chief Justice of the Municipal Court

I want to say that the Municipal Court welcomes the activities of a Committee such as yours. I consider it is a help to the State's Attorney and a help to the courts to have cases prepared before they come in, and that is what the Committee of Fifteen does.

RUSH C. BUTLER

Director of The Committee of Fifteen

The Committee of Fifteen is successful in its efforts because it is a prosecuting body. It is an agency that is filled with the militant spirit. The Committee of Fifteen fights. It follows cases which it investigates, not only by reporting on the results of those investigations, but also by laying the information available in its possession before the prosecuting officers in this jurisdiction.

FRANK PESKA

Assistant State's Attorney

The investigators for the Committee of Fifteen have demonstrated their efficiency in presenting evidence that meets all the strict requirements of the courts. They are intelligent and well trained. Judges and juries have found them to be credible witnesses and have all times deemed them worthy of belief. That accounts for the many convictions that are obtained by the Committee of Fifteen when they undertake to prosecute a case. At no time during my experience with the investigators for the Committee of Fifteen have I ever seen an investigator wilfully omit any material facts while on the witness stand, nor have I ever seen him change his testimony as to any important detail.

REV. J. C. ANDERSON

of the Eighth Ward Law and Order League

We have had a one-hundred-per-cent. record so far as our court cases are concerned. This has not been altogether due to the common sense and sound judgment of the League except in this way: Some kind Providence in our early career brought us closely in touch with the Superintendent of the Committee of Fifteen, and we have been guided largely by his judgment; in fact, altogether by his wisdom, by the good sense that he has manifested, and it is to the Superintendent of the Committee of Fifteen, to the splendid co-operation that we have received from him that we have been able to keep our ward, or to get our ward into the place it is now and in which we hope to keep it, with a little bit of plus.

SAMUEL P. THRASHER

Superintendent for The Committee of Fifteen

Further visits to the 267 places against which evidence of immorality had been obtained revealed the fact that 85 of them were found to be vacant; new tenants were living in 43 of the places, and no further evidence of immorality was obtainable in 71 places. Evidence was obtained in 68 places requiring further attention at the hands of the Committee.

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

COMMITTEE of FIFTEEN

For the Year Ended THE LIBRARY OF THE
December 31st, 1926 AUG 23 1938



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

PURPOSE—"To Aid the Public Authorities in the Enforcement of Laws against Pandering and To Take Measures Calculated to Prevent Traffic in Women."

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Thomas Tighe Jr.
Acting Superintendent

Sims, Welch, Godman & Stransky, Counsel
Offices: 1308 Lake State Bank Bldg.
203 North Wabash Avenue
Telephone: Franklin 4440.

Within the limits of a great and rapidly growing city like Chicago, unfortunately there will be found many vicious and criminal persons who constantly flaunt decency and authority and against whom the ordinary processes of law enforcement are entirely inadequate.

To supplement the work of the police and the prosecuting agencies of the city and state is therefore the responsibility of every law-abiding citizen interested in the social and business well being of his community. And that social obligation cannot be shirked without results of a serious character not only to the business and reputation of Chicago but also to the individual welfare and prosperity of each of us.

In association with others our collective responsibility may be most effectively assumed. Hence, in Chicago there have been formed many social service groups, each for the purpose of attacking some definite social problem.

As will be seen from the statistics of results obtained as reflected in the attached report, especially in view of the relatively small amount of money expended, it has been truthfully said that of the privately formed voluntarily supported organizations assisting the public authorities in dealing with social problems, in effectiveness the "batting average" of the Committee of Fifteen stands among the highest.

JOSEPH R. NOEL.

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1926.

Work of the Committee of Fifteen 1926

During the twelve months ended December 31, 1926, investigators for the Committee of Fifteen made 8,561 visits to places suspected of commercialized vice. On 1,307 of such visits they found evidence of prostitution or perversion at 81 places previously known but not yet closed, and at 521 newly discovered places which were located in various sections of the city.

Preliminary or informal notices were sent by mail to owners of the premises in 306 instances when the Committee had sufficient evidence to do so. In 209 of these instances such notice was the only action necessary. The formal legal notice required under the Injunction and Abatement law to be served personally on the owner, was necessary in the remaining 97 cases. In 86 of these, formal notices were sufficient to bring about an abatement of the nuisance. In 11 cases, however, where informal and formal notices had failed to produce results, bills for an injunction were filed.

Of the 14 injunction suits pending during the year, a permanent injunction was rendered in one; temporary injunctions were issued in five; evidence was submitted but the Master in Chancery had not reported in another; the nuisance was abated in one, and at the end of the year the remaining six were still pending.

Throughout the year in most cases owners and agents of premises complained of willingly cooperated with the Committee, and in some cases called upon the Committee to furnish evidence in support of forcible entry and detainer proceedings instituted to oust undesirable tenants.

As a result of the co-operation of owners and agents, and of the valuable assistance given to the Committee by Assistant State's Attorney Frank Peska, the nuisance was found to have been abated in 510 places where evidence previously had been secured.

The **Chicago Evening Post** on September 22, 1926, referring editorially to a report of the Committee of Fifteen issued in October, wherein it was stated that there had been a marked improvement in moral conditions of the city, said:

"It is encouraging to have this assurance from an organization which carries on a continuous crusade against vice. There have been times in the history of Chicago—and in its recent history—when such a report would not have been possible.

"Vice is a persistent activity. The fight against it cannot be abandoned even temporarily. There is no such a thing as a permanent victory. Like the weeds in the garden it demands unceasing attack.

"While we take satisfaction in the optimistic report of the Committee of Fifteen we recognize that only by providing it and like organizations with the means for carrying on may we hope to be able to maintain and justify our optimism. If Chicago has been made cleaner, the job of keeping it so will be found no less exigent."

Endorsed by The Chicago Association of Commerce Subscriptions Investigating Committee for the regular period ending November 30, 1927.

Contributions deductible from Income Tax.

76.5
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1927

The Committee of Fifteen

Report

by the

President

and the

Superintendent

on the Work of the Committee

During 1927

With Address By Guest of
Honor at the Annual Meeting

203 N. Wabash Avenue, Suite 1308

Telephone Franklin 4440

CHARLES E. MINER, *Superintendent*

Member of Chicago Council of Social Agencies

Endorsed by The Chicago Association of Commerce
Subscriptions Investigating Committee

For the regular period ending November 30, 1928

Contributions Deductible from Income Tax.

conditions having changed before another visit could be made to confirm the first observation.

During the year 308 reports were received from citizens of conditions allegedly involving commercialized prostitution. All of these were carefully followed up and evidence of prostitution found in 24 instances.

Since it is the policy of the Committee to present conclusions only which it is prepared to substantiate by competent and legal evidence, there is no statement in this report concerning the total volume of commercialized prostitution in the city, nor of official or political protection, nor of the operation of vice rings and syndicates. This should not be interpreted as a denial of the existence of any of these, but means only that, at the time this report was submitted, the Committee did not have in its possession competent and legal evidence upon which to base any conclusion on these matters.

The Court Representative has continued to serve the morals court and to assist in securing information about persons before the morals court that is of value to the Committee.

A special study was made during the month of November of records of cases being heard in branch courts, which, by order of the Superior Judge and the Commissioner of Police, should have been brought to the morals court. In all, during the month of November, 800 cases had been heard in the branch courts. Of these, 107 were at the Pekin Court, 201 at the Court at 48th and Wabash, and 248 at the Maxwell Street Station. Orders for the correction of this condition were issued by the Superior Judge and the Commissioner of Police immediately upon its being brought to their attention.

Cities are classified in various ways. More often than we commonly care to admit, cities are known by the bawds they keep. To the end that this city of ours may become constantly better known throughout the world for its civic virtue, its soundness of progress and its glory of opportunity, we, the staff, pledge to you, the citizens, whom we serve, all the energy and intelligence that we have at our command.

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Address Before the Annual Meeting

January 23, 1928

By ALBERT W. PALMER

Pastor First Congregational Church, Oak Park, Illinois

This Committee of Fifteen exists to combat "commercialized" vice. It does not, as a committee, concern itself with private morals or voluntary sins. It only says that it will fight the commercialization of vice—the exploitation of prostitution for profit. What a travesty on commerce it is, by the way, to use the adjective "commercialized" in this connection! Commerce implies an honorable give and take, benefiting both parties to the trade, but here is something which, the more it is exploited, the more it produces disease of body and degeneration of personality.

Twenty years ago the segregated district was a tolerated institution, generally regarded as a necessary evil both in Chicago and many other cities. The studies of various vice commissions the research and writings of social experts like Dr. Flexner, Raymond Fosdick and Jane Addams, the experience of the War and steady work of this committee have pretty completely changed the public attitude. What a commentary it is on that old bromide: "You can't change human nature," which used to be flung in the faces of the opponents of segregated vice. It was just because segregated districts were changing human nature, and changing it for the worse, that they had to go. No educator, and no advertiser, believes you can't change human nature. The only question is: In which direction shall it be changed? As far as this committee is concerned it is determined that men shall not be allowed, either to educate in vice or to advertise or exploit it. Vice will probably persist but at least it shall not be artificially stimulated by a marked place and a profitable organization.

Such a battle is never ended. It is like Holland's eternal battle with the sea. Yet it is a battle which can be a continuous and growing victory, even as is the struggle of brave little

The Committee of Fifteen

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Dr. John Timothy Stone
Pastor, Fourth Presbyterian Church
Harold H. Swift, Vice President and Director Swift & Co.
Graham Taylor Warden, Chicago Commons
Harriet E. Vittum
Head Res., Northwestern University Settlement
Frank F. Winans Resident Vice Pres., National City Co.

One Day's Work

The report herewith necessarily omits details but in order to show what these details are the following summary of the work of one day of the year is presented:

Work of Investigators

Observations were made at 37 different addresses during the afternoon, evening and night. Evidence was secured against 3 resorts, in the loop, on the near north side and on the near south side. Seven resorts, against which action was taken earlier in the month, were found to be closed.

Possible White Slave Case

Mr. E—— H——, who was referred to the Committee by the Association of Commerce, reported that his wife had disappeared and that he is fearful she is being held by white slavers. While there appears to be no evidence upon which his fears are founded, we are setting the public and private machinery in motion to locate her. His four small children are being cared for in the meantime by a social work organization.

Conviction Against "Vic Shaw"

Two of our investigators testified in Federal Court against Vic Shaw under an action instituted some time ago but just brought to trial. She was fined \$500.00.

Formal Notices

Assistant State's Attorney H. M. Sharpe came to the office, read evidence against eight resorts that have not ceased operating since a preliminary notice was mailed, and signed the notices. He took copies of them for the use of his constable in making necessary legal service.

Agent and Owner Ask Advice

Mr. S——, agent for an eighteen-flat building on the near south side, called to look over evidence that premises under his control were being used for prostitution. The notice sent the owner, whom he represented, was informal and designed to protect legitimate interests. He stated that the tenant would be given five-day notice to vacate and we agreed to furnish testimony in court in the event it was needed to support this legal eviction.

Mr. S——, a prominent merchant, owner of several two-story flat buildings on the near north side, called to see what procedure was necessary to protect his interests against tenants who were using one of his buildings for prostitution. He explained that he had refused offers of high rent for his property and that he was anxious to keep good tenants. He will instruct his attorneys to serve eviction notice against the tenants against whom our evidence was secured.

Contribution Received

One check for \$25.00 was received from Mr. E—— S——, who has been contributing that amount each year for eight years toward the work of the Committee.

Holland with her ancient foe. Each year so new dykes and a larger area reclaimed from the devastating "old devil sea."

In this continuing battle, the Committee Fifteen serves in many ways. First of all, a reinforcement to the public officials charged with administering the law. Every honest public official will welcome sane and constructive help in the intricate task of war on vice. I am glad this Committee is able to report such co-operation.

But the Committee also has a task of research and study as well as mere enforcement. The problem with which it deals is an exceedingly intricate one. Commercialized vice is not a separate isolated phenomenon. It is linked to other social failures. Education, recreation, industry, religion all have a share of responsibility. This Committee must not crystallize into routine, must not become a mere enforcement machine. Rather, it must keep a growing edge of study and research. It must continually challenge the meaning and significance of the thing it is doing. How do the facts brought to light tie in to the success or failure of the schools? How far are inadequate recreational facilities and ideals responsible? How far is this evil the out-growth of economic and industrial conditions which might be bettered? Could the religious forces be better mobilized to meet this problem?

I call you to a spirit of adventure: The men and women of 1911 adventured greatly when they launched the vice commission and challenged the long-established, well-entrenched system of segregated and commercialized social evil. We, of this later day, must not crystallize into routine. We must ever face our problems anew—build larger and better dykes farther out into the sea and reclaim, if possible, larger areas of human life for decency and goodness.

Report of Superintendent

During 1927, 211 resorts were closed as a direct result of the Committees activities. These 211 resorts were: hotels 12, rooming houses 10, call houses 12, parlor houses 2, resorts operating under the guise of massage parlors 3, flats 172. Of these 211 resorts, 87 were located on the north side, 117 on the south side and 16 on the west side.

During the last four days of the year the entire staff was assigned to checking over the resorts which had been listed at any time during the year as closed as a result of the Committee's action against them. It was discovered that 202 of the resorts had remained closed, 9 having reopened.

One hundred and twenty resorts were known to have been operating on December 31. These are: hotels 22, rooming houses 8, call houses 1, parlor house 1, unclassified 4, flats, 84. The gathering of more evidence for proceedings against these places continues in 1928.

In the Committee's efforts to secure competent legal evidence against commercialized prostitution during the year, 7,202 different investigations were made. The results of these investigations were submitted in legal form in 226 informal notices and 45 formal notices to Mr. Frank Peska, Assistant State's Attorney and to Mr. H. M. Sharpe, who succeeded Mr. Peska in handling the Committee's evidence in May. The evidence in each case was considered sufficient and the notices were served.

The full provisions of the Injunction and Abatement Law, which provides that property used for purposes of lewdness, assignation or prostitution may be declared a public nuisance and closed against any use for one year, were used once during 1927 when a three-story flat building owned by a keeper who had resisted all efforts to close the place as a vice resort was seized by the sheriff, the contents sold at public auction to defray legal costs and the premises sealed for one year.

At 115 different addresses it was possible to secure evidence of prostitution but one time, the

Report of President

The work done by the Committee of Fifteen in 1927 is summarized in the accompanying report of the superintendent.

The officers and the members of the executive committee devoted considerable time and effort in securing the best man available to act as superintendent to succeed Mr. Samuel P. Thrashe who died in 1925. In the person of Charles E. Miner we believe we have secured a superintendent whose integrity, interest, judgment, personality and experience, peculiarly qualify him for that position, which he assumed October 17, 1927.

At a saving in rent the Committee's offices were moved to a new building where it has more desirable quarters and up-to-date equipment.

Thus, new life and increased morale have been added to the Committee, and we believe it is better equipped than ever effectively to perform its valuable and increasingly needed service to the community.

Considering the number and importance of the results obtained, the expenses for 1927 were low, but insufficient effort was made to raise the necessary funds, hence there was a deficit of \$713.58 in the Committee's financial operations for the year.

In the effort to right that situation and to increase the breadth of its financial base, those who believe this established organization serves a good purpose are respectfully invited to contribute to its financial support. Its work cannot be done effectively for less than \$38,000.00 per annum, which is the budget for 1928. Checks for small amounts are welcome from those who cannot consistently give more.

Respectfully submitted,

JOSEPH R. NOEL, *President.*

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The Committee of Fifteen

REPORT

by the

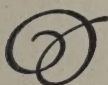
PRESIDENT

and the

SUPERINTENDENT

for 1928

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203 N. Wabash Ave., Suite 1308

Franklin 4440

CHARLES E. MINER, *Superintendent*

Member of Chicago Council of Social Agencies

Endorsed by the Chicago Association of Commerce
Subscriptions Investigating Committee

For the regular period ending November 30, 1929

Contributions Deductible from Income Tax

Report of the Superintendent

Resorts Closed in 1928

The Committee of Fifteen was successful, through its program of gathering competent, legal evidence of commercial prostitution and presenting this for action under the Illinois Injunction and Abatement Law to the State's Attorney of Cook County, in closing 303 vice resorts in Chicago in 1928.

The law provides that citizens or the State's Attorney may invoke its action. In all of these cases the State's Attorney has acted upon evidence furnished by the Committee. Two hundred and fifty-one of the resorts were closed through assistance of the owners of the property with but the formality of a written notice presenting the evidence to his attention. In 50 cases it was necessary to have served the formal notice provided in the law. In 11 cases it was necessary to produce in court the evidence on which the action was based. Two injunctions were issued, five are pending. Cooperation of owners and agents was so complete that it was not necessary to file any suits during the year.

New Resorts Discovered

During 1928, 273 new resorts were discovered, against which evidence of commercial prostitution had not been secured before in 1928 or 1927.

There is no certain way to know how long these resorts had been operating before discovery. There is some indication that many of them had been operating but a short time. Any period given would be conjectural and is therefore omitted.

Resorts Remaining Open

On January 1st, 1929, 90 resorts were listed as operating. Eighteen of these were hotels, 24 flats, 35 apartments, 5 houses, 4 flats over business places and 4 apartment hotels. The resorts were operating in 14 of the 80 Chicago districts into which the city is divided for statistical purposes.

Do Resorts Remain Closed?

The Committee is interested in knowing whether resorts closed through its assistance reopen. To have the facts at hand, the entire staff of investigators was assigned during June to re-investigate every address then in the active records. There were 1307 of these addresses. One hundred and forty-one of this number were listed as operating when the check-up began. Of the rest, 1166, 268 had been acted against during the first six months of 1928, 348 had been acted against in 1927, 332 in 1926, 197 in 1925, 85 in 1924, and 77 prior to 1924.

Out of the 1,166 listed closed, 12 were found to



Report of President

The work done by the Committee of Fifteen in 1928 is summarized in the accompanying report of the Superintendent.

The closing of 303 vice resorts, by direct action and in cooperation with officials, in Chicago during the year, is a community service of importance.

The continued success of this enterprise depends upon maintaining a steady pressure against the problem. Alertness in gathering competent evidence and in acting promptly is essential.

The problem is one which not only affects every community welfare program; reacts unfavorably upon legitimate business; results in damage to property values and the reputation of neighborhoods and communities but is a direct menace to every decent home.

The work of the Committee of Fifteen is financed entirely by contributions. Those who believe this established organization serves a good purpose are respectfully invited to contribute to its support.

Respectfully submitted,

JOSEPH R. NOEL, *President.*



Cooperation with Official Agencies

The Committee has continued to enjoy throughout the year the privilege of cooperation with each official agency under the jurisdiction of which comes one part or another of the problem of commercialized prostitution.

Evidence secured by the Committee has been submitted to Assistant State's Attorney H. M. Sharpe, who, when he deemed it adequate, acted for the people of Cook County as the Injunction and Abatement Law provides. Each of the 303 resorts reported closed had brought against their continued operation the effective action of this official. Twenty-seven addresses of vice resorts were sent to the Police Department. Thirteen requests for investigation and information came from the Bureau of Naturalization of the United States Department of Labor, and in one case naturalization was denied. The records of the Morals Court have been available for our confidential use.

Present Tendency

The present tendency is toward smaller and less pretentious resorts and toward establishments not usually classed as vice resorts in the old sense. This is due to steady pressure against them and to the changed public attitude toward the resorts. The pressure which has brought about the virtual disappearance of the red-light district in the United States is maintained against the resorts that remain.

Checking Damage to the Community

It is clear that if 303 vice resorts can be closed during one year through evidence furnished by one organization, if it can be demonstrated that almost all of these remain closed, if it can be shown that this program does not result in invasion of neighborhoods not previously infested, if property so protected may be used legitimately and therefore permanently and profitably instead of intermittently and therefore unprofitably, if the resorts can be kept so small and so obscure that they do not flaunt themselves before the immature, if the reputation of neighborhoods can be protected by clearing out of resorts, then a very great deal has been done to check the damage of commercial prostitution to the Community.

But this is not a program that is marked by annual steps. The success of this undertaking rests in the maintaining of a steady alert pressure toward the problem as a whole.

To see the problem as a whole, to attack it vigorously but without ostentation, to assist wherever possible the official and voluntary agencies in the field, to amend the program as need for that is evident and to press nearer the solution day by day and year by year is the steady purpose of the staff of the Committee of Fifteen.

Respectfully submitted,

CHARLES E. MINER, *Superintendent*

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have reopened and were operating at the time of the investigation. Two hundred and eleven resorts were closed during 1927. These addresses were checked over by the investigating staff during the last two weeks of 1928. Of the 211 places, 13 were found to have reopened and were operating at the time of the investigation.

A further check was made during the same two weeks ending the year, of the 303 resorts reported closed during 1928. Of the 303, 10 were found operating at the time of the investigation.

It seems reasonable to conclude that resorts closed through this procedure do not commonly reopen and continue to operate.

Does This Program Scatter the Resorts?

Several studies were made during 1928 to discover what changes had taken place in the general location of the resorts to discover whether, as has been stated, a repressive program against commercial prostitution results in scattering resorts into sections not previously invaded.

The first of these was of the locations of resorts as published in the Chicago newspapers. From 1905 to 1925 the Chicago newspapers published the addresses of 262 resorts. All of these were found to be located within 12 of the 80 districts in which the city is divided for statistical purposes. All of them were located in the areas in which are the resorts now being acted against by the Committee.

The second of these studies of possible changes in locations of resorts was of various lists of addresses, the first published in 1894; the records of the Committee for several years past; reports for several years from the Morals Court; a series of confidential reports made by agents of the Federal Government from 1917 to 1923; and the current list of addresses in the records of the Committee. The study seems to show that all of the different addresses of resorts, approximately 8,400, from 1894 to date, have been found within less than 25 per cent of the total area of the city.

If this is substantiated by further careful study, it seems to show that the resorts have not scattered into districts that were previously free from commercial prostitution.

Cooperation with Private Agencies

During the year the Committee has assisted, been assisted by, or established and maintained contact with 30 local, state, national and international organizations dealing with one phase or another of the problem of commercial prostitution.

From these agencies and from other citizens have come 226 reports of conditions requiring investigation and action. The largest number of these reports and requests for action came from real estate owners and agents.

The Committee of Fifteen

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Alfred R. Bone Secy., Illinois Bell Telephone Co.
Mrs. Gertrude Howe Britton, Ex. Dir. Chicago Heart Assn.
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University of Chicago
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Harry Eugene Kelly Attorney
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Bruce MacLeish Director, Carson, Pirie, Scott & Co.
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Edward L. Ryerson, Jr.

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The Officers, Executive Committee, and

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Harriet E. Vittum
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The Committee of Fifteen

Report for 1929

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STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

The report submitted to directors, members, contributors and the public herewith marks another milestone in the steady and effective effort maintained by the Committee of Fifteen, in cooperation with the public authorities against commercialized prostitution in Chicago.

The elimination in one year of 342 commercial vice resorts from buildings in which 6,931 families were maintaining their homes is a substantial service to home life in the community as well as a material protection to the usefulness and value of property.

During the year the Committee has shown by careful study of all available records that its action against commercial vice resorts has not resulted in scattering resorts into neighborhoods that would not otherwise be infested.

Not only has it been demonstrated from the records that segregation of commercial prostitution within a small area was never a fact in Chicago but it is clear that efforts on the part of operators of vice resorts to invade new neighborhoods have been successfully resisted.

The Committee is supported entirely by contributions. The support of the reader of this report, if not already sharing in this important community enterprise, is respectfully solicited.

JOSEPH R. NOEL,
President (1929),
Committee of Fifteen.

203 N. Wabash Ave., Suite 1308

Franklin 4440

CHARLES E. MINER, *General Director*

Member of Chicago Council of Social Agencies

Endorsed by the Chicago Association of Commerce
Subscriptions Investigating Committee

For the regular period ending November 30, 1930

Contributions Deductible from Income Tax

Report of the General Director

Commercial Prostitution Resorts Closed

There were 342 commercial vice resorts closed by action of the Committee of Fifteen, in cooperation with the office of the State's Attorney, in 1929.

Prostitution Not Scattering Widely

These 342 resorts were located in less than 19 per cent of the total area of Chicago. There were 79 in Uptown, 27 in the Lower North Side, 17 in the Near West Side, 40 in Lake View, 36 in Douglas, 98 in Grand Boulevard, 3 in Lincoln, 3 in Loop, 18 in Washington Park, 7 in Kenwood, 6 in the Near South Side, 5 in Oakland, 2 in Hyde Park, 1 in Rogers Park. These 14 areas are less than 19 per cent of the total of 78 areas into which the city is divided. 64 of the 78 neighborhoods in Chicago had no commercial prostitution in them in 1929.

Type of Building Invaded by Commercial Prostitution

Of these 342 resorts closed by action of the Committee in 1929, there were 171 in apartment buildings, 115 in flat buildings, 12 in apartment hotels, 23 in hotels and 21 in detached houses.

There were 6,931 families maintaining their homes in the buildings from which commercial prostitution resorts were eliminated during the year.

Resorts Remain Closed After Action

All the 942 resorts acted against in the past three years were investigated in the last two weeks in December of 1929. Of the 297 closed in 1927, there were 2 found open. Of the 303 closed in 1928, there was one operating and of those closed in 1929, there were 9 found operating at the end of the year.

Prostitution and Other Offenses

Nine of the resorts closed in 1929 were known to be hangouts for criminals. Eleven others, all of which were closed during the year by injunction or action by owners of the buildings in which the resorts were found, have been identified in court actions in recent months as centers for crime.

Duplication of Work by Police and Other Agencies

There were 38 of the 342 places proceeded against by the Committee in 1929 that were also under action by the police.

There were 174 resorts acted against by the police in 1929, under the same procedure used by the Committee at which in order to avoid duplication, none other than police action was taken. All of these places were investigated during the year by members of the Committee's staff, however, and appropriate action taken upon competent evidence secured.

A check made during the year disclosed that but 2% of the work of the Committee duplicates that of other agencies.

Locations of Resorts—Changes in Locations Over 20 Years

A study of all addresses in the Committee's files for 20 years prior to 1930 shows a slow increase in total number of resorts in areas from one to four miles in radius from the loop, a steady decrease in the total number in and within a mile of the loop and no marked invasion during 20 years of substantial residence areas and neighborhoods.

The closing in 1912 of the segregated district at 22nd Street is not marked by a corresponding increase in the number of resorts in other sections.



The Committee of Fifteen

Officers

Joseph R. Noel, President (1929) _____
 _____ Chairman of Board, Noel State Bank
 Frederick M. Bowes, President (1930) _____
 _____ Bowes Realty Company
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 Harold H. Swift _____ Vice-Pres. & Dir., Swift & Co.
 Graham Taylor _____ Warden, Chicago Commons
 Harriet E. Vittum _____
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The Committee of Fifteen

Report for 1930

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STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

This report on the service of the Committee of Fifteen to Chicago during 1930 reflects real progress in dealing with a complex and serious problem.

The value of a cooperative but independent agency in this particular phase of the attack against crime is difficult to overestimate.

If the liability imposed by each open commercial vice resort is nearly \$30,000.00 per year, as indicated by the estimate in this report, the closing of 276 such resorts in 1930 is of importance.

Further demonstration that a repressive policy when applied to commercial vice resorts, does not result in the scattering of these to neighborhoods not otherwise invaded, is valuable.

The Committee is supported entirely by contributions. The support of the reader of this report, if not already sharing in this important community enterprise, is respectfully solicited.

FREDERICK M. BOWES,
President.

203 N. Wabash Ave., Suite 1308

Franklin 4440

CHARLES E. MINER, *General Director*

Member of Chicago Council of Social Agencies

Endorsed by the Chicago Association of Commerce

Subscriptions Investigating Committee

For the regular period ending November 30, 1931

Contributions Deductible from Income Tax

Report of the General Director

Commercial Prostitution Resorts Closed

There were 276 commercial vice resorts closed by action of the Committee of Fifteen in co-operation with the State's Attorney during 1930.

Resorts Newly Discovered and Closed

On January 1st, 1930, 49 resorts were carried on the Committee's records as open while during the year 319 new places were discovered making a total of 368 old and new resorts dealt with by the Committee in the year. It was possible to close 276 of these leaving 92 remaining open as of January 1st, 1931. This represents almost a doubling of the remaining open resorts. This marked increase is due directly to economic conditions.

One Evidence Resorts

At a total of 73 other resorts but one evidence was secured. Some of these closed before the Committee's action was completed. At others it appeared that the women and girls involved were so because of immediate economic pressure. These were turned over to the Governor's Commission on Unemployment and Relief for assistance and the Committee's action held in abeyance.

Investigation at Call Flats

One special investigation during the year was at 81 "call flats" in which prices ranged between \$15.00 and \$50.00. Evidence was secured, and effective action taken, at 20 of these. Securing of further evidence against the others is in process.

Illegal Massage Parlors

Investigations were made in 1930 at 243 massage and bath establishments. Seventy of these were found to be operating illegally. It was possible to complete cases during the year against 27 and suits were filed under the Injunction and Abatement Law. The effects of this action are apparent.

Taxicabs

Inquiries directed to 516 taxicab drivers during the year resulted in locating 20 resorts not previously known to us and in securing additional evidence at 15 others already under action.

Sources of Complaints

There were 316 different complaints made to the Committee in 1930. The largest number of these, 86, were signed by the citizens making them; 83 were anonymous; 64 were made by state officials; 30 by real estate agents; 17 by federal officials and a total of 36 from 9 other agencies.

Slight Duplication of Police Action

6.5
73
30 In 1930, 229 commercial vice resorts were proceeded against by the Police Department under the same procedure used by the Committee. A comparison of the addresses at which these resorts were located discloses that at 34 of the 229 resorts dealt with by the police were also acted against by the Committee.

Prostitution Not Scattering Widely

The 276 resorts closed by the Committee's action during the year were in 12 of the 80 districts into which the city is divided for our statistical uses. Sixty-eight of the 80 neighborhoods had no commercial vice resorts found in them during the year. The names of these districts and the number of resorts closed in each are as follows: North Lake View 87, South Lake View 56, Lincoln 10, West Side 14, Grand Boulevard 45, Washington Park 15, Douglas 23, Lower North Side 9, Near South Side 6, Kenwood 6, Oakland 4 and Englewood 1.

Type of Building Invaded by Commercial Prostitution

One hundred fifty-four of the 276 resorts were in apartment buildings; 95 in flat buildings; 16 in apartment hotels; 9 in hotels and 2 were detached houses.

Co-operation with Commercial Agencies

During the year agreements were entered into by which the Committee will serve the membership of the Chicago Real Estate Board, the Retail Credit Company, the Chicago Retail Association and the Mortgage Bankers Association by investigations at properties under their control so that commercial prostitution therein may be eliminated. A larger proportion than ever before of the work of the Committee is now carried on at the request of owners and operators of real estate.

Direct Effect of Economic Conditions

In addition to other solicitations on the streets there were 382 women and girls who stated they were just entering prostitution because of the economic situation. All of these were furnished with detailed information as to sources through which to secure food and lodging and assistance in securing employment. Of the 382 there were 41 who later solicited so constantly that action was taken.

Cost of Prostitution to Chicago

An effort was made to determine the liability imposed by prostitution. It is estimated that legitimate business profits to the extent of \$421,847.00 per year through prostitution but loses \$11,558,661.00 leaving a net deficit on account of commercial vice of \$11,121,814.00 per year. These totals are based upon the continued operation of 300 commercial vice resorts. The closing, by the Committee's action in 1930, of 276 resorts of this type, represents a very substantial saving.

The Committee of Fifteen

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Vice-Chairman, Executive Committee,
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